

Attractions

M A G A Z I N E

Fall 2018
Volume 11, Issue 4 • \$6.99

PLAY BIG!
in
Toy Story Land

Walt Disney's Hometown

Evermore: A New Type of Theme Park

Universal's Aventura Hotel

Wine Bar George at Disney Springs

PLUS:

**Updates, Rumors,
Games, Cartoons
& More!**

Theme Parks

Video Games

Television

Movies

Music & More



A Podcast For All Things Geek.

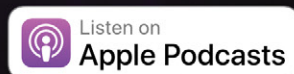


Get Hype!

Weekly podcast brought to you by



Listen to a new episode every week on
iTunes, Google Play and other Podcast apps.





UNDERCOVER TOURIST®

UNDERCOVERTOURIST.COM

Attraction Tickets

Save up to \$68 per ticket -
plus free shipping!

limited
time
offers!



Authorized Theme Park Ticket Seller

WALT DISNEY World.



SEAWORLD PARKS
& ENTERTAINMENT.

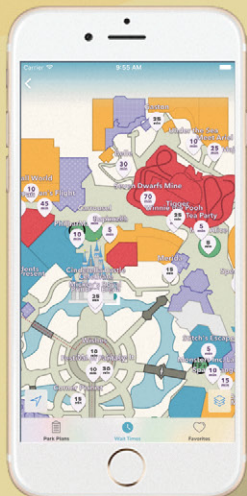
Hotels

Family-friendly Orlando hotels at
the best rates - including
Walt Disney World® and
Universal Orlando®
Resort hotels!

SAVE UP TO
\$687!
(33%)



your ticket to
FAMILY FUN!



UPDATED!



FREE DOWNLOAD!

Orlando Planning App

- ★ NEW! Interactive Park Maps
- ★ Park Plans
- ★ Accurate Wait Times

Available on the
App Store

Car Rentals

Save up to 50% on national
car rental brands!

Alamo

AVIS

Budget

National

enterprise



Offers subject to change. Residency or other restrictions may apply.

A family of shows - for a family of fans.

The
Attractions
Show!

AS
DREAMERS
DO

**THE WEEKLY
REWIND** *Live*

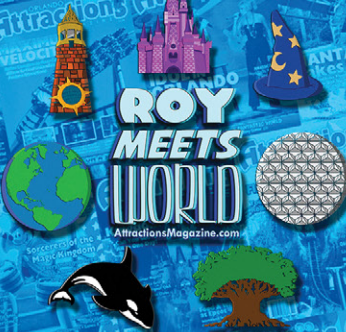
**EARLY NIGHT
LIVE**

Attractions
Adventures

Blue Sky
Beauty



DAYCATION KINGDOM



**ROY
MEETS
WORLD**
AttractionsMagazine.com

EXPANSION

New videos every day!

Attractions
MAGAZINE

AttractionsMagazine.com

Contents

AttractionsMagazine.com | Fall 2018 | Volume 11 | Issue 4

FEATURES



24

Q&A: Edward Meyer

Retired VP of Exhibits and Archives at Ripley's Believe It or Not.



28

Top 10 Ways to Enjoy the Theme Parks By Yourself

Skipper Ben heads to Universal Orlando for a fun day alone.



32

Toy Story Land

A look at the new land at Disney's Hollywood Studios.



38

Evermore Park

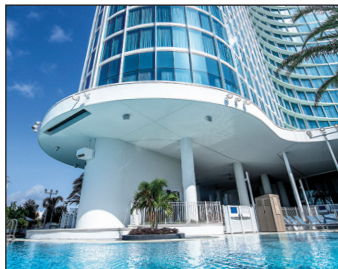
It's a theme park like no other.



44

Walt Disney's Hometown

A look at Walt's history in Marcelline, Missouri.



48

Resort Report

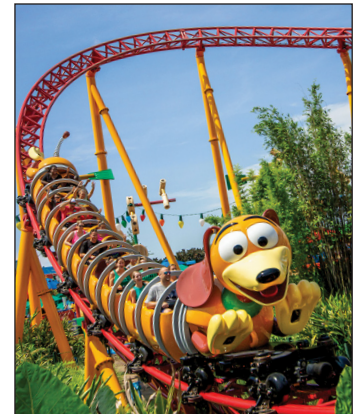
Universal's Aventura Hotel



52

Table Service

Wine Bar George at Disney Springs



ON THE COVER

Guests enjoying the new Slinky Dog Dash roller coaster in Toy Story Land at Disney's Hollywood Studios. Photo by Tharin White.

DEPARTMENTS

- 6 What's New Online
- 8 Feedback
- 10 Then & Now
- 12 Vacation Planner
- 14 News In The Queue
- 20 Photo Finds
- 22 Versus

- 56 Bemusement Park
- 57 Spot the Difference
- 58 The Rumor Queue
- 58 Mystery Photo
- 60 In the Loop
- 62 Lights, Camera, Attraction!

U. S. Postal Service Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation (Required by 39 USC 3685, PS Form 3526)

1. Publication Title: Attractions Magazine; 2. Publication No. 17140; 3. Filing Date: 9-1-18; 4. Issue Frequency: Quarterly; 5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 4; 6. Annual Subscription Price: \$27.95; 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: Attractions Magazine, 7512 Dr. Phillips Blvd. STE 50-612, Orlando, FL 32819; 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office: Attractions Magazine, 210 South Bass Road, Kissimmee, FL 34746; 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor: Matt Roseboom, 7512 Dr. Phillips Blvd. STE 50-612, Orlando, FL 32819; 10. Owner: Dream Together Media LLC, 7512 Dr. Phillips Blvd. STE 50-612, Orlando, FL 32819; 11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees and Other Security Holders: None; 12. Tax Status (For Completion by Nonprofit Organizations Authorized to Mail at Nonprofit Rates): Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months; 13. Publication Title: Attractions Magazine; 14. Issue Date For Circulation Data Below: Summer 2018; 15a. Total Number of Copies: 2355 (Summer 2018: 2300); b. Paid Circulation: (1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541: 1851 (Summer 2018: 1872); (2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541: 29 (Summer 2018: 29); (3) Paid Distribution Outside The Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside the USPS: 0 (Summer 2018: 0); (4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS 59 (Summer 2018: 42); c. Total Paid Distribution 1939 (Summer 2018: 1943); d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution: (1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541: 0 (2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: 0 (3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS: 5 (Summer 2018: 3); (4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or Other Means): 40 (Summer 2018: 32); e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution: 45 (Summer 2018: 35); f. Total Distribution: 1984 (Summer 2018: 1978); g. Copies Not Distributed: 63 (Summer 2018: 122); h. Total: 2047 (Summer 2018: 2500); i. Percent Paid: 97.7% (Summer 2018: 98.2%).

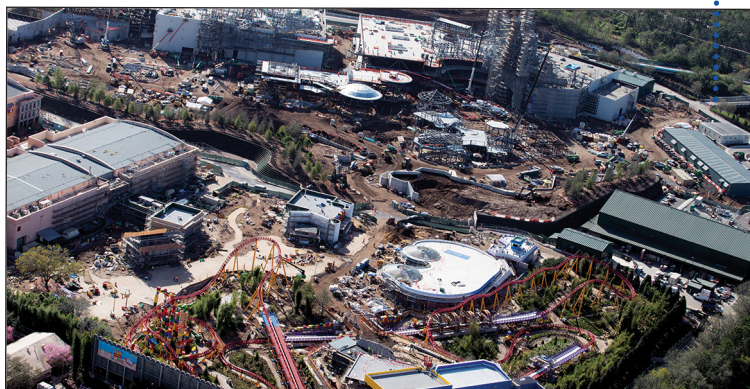


WHAT'S NEW ON ATTRACTIONSMAGAZINE.com

By Banks Lee

Check our website regularly for more articles and videos. Stay up-to-date with all the latest theme park and attraction news through our weekly videos and shows, our free iPhone/iPad app and our free e-mail newsletter.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES FROM ABOVE



Some major additions to Walt Disney World and Universal Orlando are currently under construction, and we shared some aerial photos. Check out the progress of Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge and the new Harry Potter-themed roller coaster.

ROLLER COASTER TOUR

Busch Gardens Tampa Bay recently brought back their behind-the-scenes Roller Coaster Tours for a limited time. This allowed a small group of guests the chance to see the control tower for Cobra's Curse, get up-close to the second launch section of Cheetah Hunt, and even climb 200 feet up the lift hill of Sheikra and walk around the top of its track. There's no word if Busch Gardens will add more dates to this tour, but you can catch the Aug. 16 episode of "The Attractions Show" to get a look at the tour.



IPHONE SURVIVES STARFLYER DROP

When they say not to bring loose articles on certain attractions, the warning is there for a reason. During a recent visit to the new Orlando StarFlyer on International Drive, Cansel Yildirim accidentally dropped her iPhone 7 Plus while ascending the ride. Miraculously, the phone was unharmed when it landed in a parking spot by the attraction, after falling from about 400 feet in the air — without a case! Head to our website to see the crazy video of the fall.



EUROPEAN ADVENTURES



Our "Attractions Adventures" vlog series has been showcasing many destinations in Europe recently. Quinn took viewers on a European cruise to places like Tivoli in Denmark, Norway, Russia and more, while Banks has been showcasing his recent trip to Disneyland Paris.



LIVE FROM THE PARKS

Follow us on Twitter @Attractions, on Snapchat at AttractionsMag, on Instagram at attractionsmagazine and our Facebook page at facebook.com/attractionsmagazine. We frequently post on-the-spot information, photos and live videos while we're inside the theme parks. You can also see our latest videos if you subscribe to our YouTube channel at youtube.com/attractionsmagazine. Be sure to click on the bell icon to be notified when we post new videos.

We post new videos every day:

As Dreamers Do
The Attractions Show
Daycation Kingdom
Expansion Drive
Roy Meets World

Attractions Adventures
Blue Sky Beauty
Early Night Live
Photo Finds
The Weekly Rewind



BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE NOW!

Once you've caught up
on our past issues,
SUBSCRIBE
via our website



Vol. 1, Issue 1

Vol. 1, Issue 2

HURRY BEFORE ALL ISSUES ARE SOLD OUT!

Many are still available at
AttractionsMagazine.com.



Vol. 1, Issue 3



Vol. 1, Issue 4



Vol. 1, Issue 5



Vol. 1, Issue 6



Vol. 2, Issue 1



Vol. 2, Issue 2



Vol. 2, Issue 3



Summer 2009



Fall 2009



Winter 2009-10



Spring 2010



Summer 2010



Fall 2010



Winter 2010-11



Spring 2011



Summer 2011



Fall 2011



Winter 2011-12



Spring 2012



Summer 2012



Fall 2012



Winter 2012-13



Spring 2013



Summer 2013



Fall 2013



Winter 2013-14



Spring 2014



Summer 2014



Fall 2014



Winter 2014-15



Spring 2015



Summer 2015



Fall 2015



Winter 2015-16



Spring 2016



Summer 2016



Fall 2016



Winter 2016-17



Spring 2017



Summer 2017



Fall 2017



Winter 2017-18



Spring 2018



Summer 2018



FEEDBACK

Favorite Fan Photos and Stories.



ATTRACTIONS MAGAZINE STAFF

Editor and Publisher
Matt Roseboom

Writers

**Andy Guinigundo, Banks Lee, Ben Rebstock,
Jackie Roseboom, Matt Roseboom, Quinn Roseboom,
Brittani Tuttle, Simon Veness, Susan Veness,
Tharin White, Jim Winnerman**

Photographer

Matt Roseboom

Art & Design

**AllPhaseGraphics.com,
David Campbell, Vince Dorse**

Proofreader

Scott Otis

Editorial Assistants

**Banks Lee, Jackie Roseboom,
Quinn Roseboom, Brittani Tuttle, Tharin White**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Attractions Magazine

7512 Dr. Phillips Blvd. STE 50-612, Orlando FL 32819

Web: attractionsmagazine.com

Phone: 407-741-3200

E-mail: info@attractionsmagazine.com

Twitter: twitter.com/attractions

Facebook: facebook.com/attractionsmagazine

YouTube: youtube.com/attractionsmagazine

Snapchat: AttractionsMag

Instagram: Instagram.com/AttractionsMagazine

Pinterest: pinterest.com/Attractions



Attractions Magazine (ISSN 24708364) is published in the U.S.A. quarterly by Dream Together Media LLC, 210 South Bass Road, Kissimmee, FL 34746. Periodicals postage paid at Orlando, Florida and additional mailing offices. The entire contents of this publication are Copyright© 2018 by Dream Together Media LLC. All Rights Reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced in any form without the express written permission of the publisher. Statements or opinions herein are those of the authors and advertisers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher, Dream Together Media LLC, or the staff. Attractions Magazine is locally owned and operated and is not affiliated with any theme park or attraction company. Basic subscription rate is \$27.95 for four issues. Single issue price is \$6.99. Shipping is extra on single and international orders. All orders must be prepaid and are payable in U.S. funds only. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to Attractions Magazine, Attn: Subscriptions, 7512 Dr. Phillips Blvd. STE 50-612, Orlando FL 32819. SUBSCRIBER: If the postal service alerts us that your magazine is undeliverable, we have no further obligation unless we receive a corrected address within six months.



My sons Ari and Clark admiring turtles at SeaWorld. — Teresa Wolfe



My older daughter Jessica, loving being at Magic Kingdom. — Jane Pope



Me and my youngest daughter Brianna reminiscing about Back to the Future! It's still our most missed lost attraction. — Raymond Yuhasz



My friend Chesara and I at the Purple Wall! I got to see my human again! — Kimberly Barger



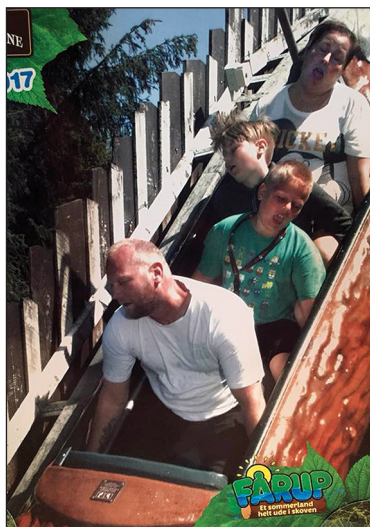
Our first trip to Hawaii at Disney Aulani. It was my parents' 40th anniversary and our 20th anniversary. Memories, for sure, we will never forget. Of course my 13-year-old daughter had a blast. She's wanting to go again for her graduation trip in five years. — Tia LeBlanc



I said yes to Ben. He took me on a photo scavenger hunt around all four parks! — Michelle Blakey



This is a photo of me. It's my favorite place, with my favorite coffee. I love getting shots while people are waiting for the parade.
— Shelby Debus



Me, my husband and our two boys in Fårup in Denmark. We try to do this when we know where the camera is. — Marie Pedersen



Youngsters at heart taking in our first ride on Slinky Dog Dash at Disney's Hollywood Studios. — Stephanie Thompson-Scholer



Our first visit to Disneyland was just plain fun. — Toni Naylor



My favorite because the log ride at Six Flags Over Texas is fun. My brother Ashton and I are in the picture. — Colby Meador



Gelatoni said he painted the background, but Duffy was in disagreement. — Lito Michael Morón



My three middle children, Emma, Paylynn and Edgar, hanging out and riding rides at Magic Kingdom as the others were too tired. — Dustin Saville



My daughter Harper enjoying her first visit to Walt Disney World! — Rachel Spear

WRITE TO US!

.....

We want your letters and photos! If you have any comments about the magazine, questions about traveling to theme parks or fun stories or photos to share, simply e-mail us at info@attractionsmagazine.com.



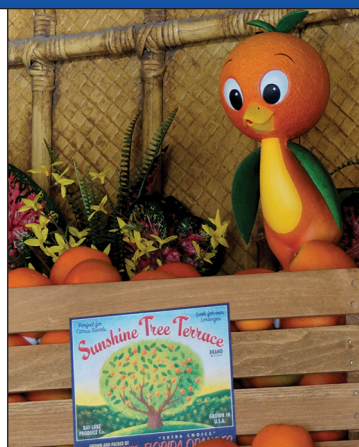
THEN & NOW

The Orange Bird

By Matt Roseboom

PHOTOS BY WALT DISNEY ARCHIVES

THEN



The Orange Bird was designed by Disney for the Florida Citrus Growers when they signed on to sponsor the Sunshine Pavilion at Magic Kingdom when it opened in 1971. The walk-around character made his first appearance in a promotional photo outside the still-under-construction attraction. Once the park opened, he greeted guests outside the Sunshine Tree Terrace, often joining them as they enjoyed their treats. A statue of Orange Bird appeared inside the Terrace as well, but by the 1980s, the character was gone, with the statue disappearing later. In 2012, the statue was refurbished and returned to the Terrace, and he was added to the sign. In 2015, the Sunshine Tree Terrace swapped places with Aloha Isle, which was another treat stand in Adventureland, and the Orange Bird statue and a new sign went with it.

The little bird doesn't speak; he just has thought clouds that appear above his head. In the early days, he appeared in advertisements and even had his own song, written by the Sherman Brothers.

Since his return in 2012, the Orange Bird has appeared on lots of Disney merchandise, such as T-shirts, plush toys, dresses, purses and more. But the walk-around character has yet to return.

NOW



Find Us On You Tube

at
[YouTube.com/AttractionsMagazine](https://www.youtube.com/AttractionsMagazine)

Hours of video from:

- Interviews
- Full ride-throughs
- Grand openings
- Special events

**AND
MUCH
MORE!**

FROM COAST TO COAST, AND THE OCEANS BEYOND.



PURCHASE THE LATEST EDITION TODAY!

Whether you're at Walt Disney World®, Disneyland®, or setting sail aboard Disney Cruise Line®, there's a secret hidden in plain sight and *Hidden Mickeys* is your field guide to discovering them all!

Available at
amazon

[AttractionsMagazine.com/store](https://www.attractionsmagazine.com/store)

Also available on Amazon | Check out our iPhone app!

Download on the
App Store

TD Collectibles LLC Disney Collectibles Old & New

5405 Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway Unit C99

Kissimmee, FL34746



Magical Surprise

www.MagicalSurprise.com

Pinopolis Pin Game

www.PinopolisPinGameFlorida.com



eBay: [TDCollectiblesLLC](https://www.ebay.com/str/TDCollectiblesLLC)

www.TDCollectibles.net

407-347-0670



VACATION PLANNER

Upcoming attractions you may want to plan your vacation around.

By Banks Lee

JURASSIC WORLD: THE RIDE

Location: Universal Studios Hollywood, formerly Jurassic Park: The Ride

Opening Date: 2019

This next-generation thrill attraction will introduce never-before-seen dinosaurs, enhanced storytelling, scenic design, a new color scheme and state-of-the-art technology.

UNIVERSAL'S ENDLESS SUMMER RESORT (FIRST PHASE)

Location: International Drive, formerly Wet 'n Wild

Opening Date: 2019

Surfside Inn and Suites will offer nightly rates starting at just \$73 for a seven-night stay and \$85 per night for a four-night stay in a standard room. The hotel will feature 390 two-bedroom suites that sleep six and start as low as \$111 per night for a seven-night stay.

WILDWOOD GROVE



Location: Dollywood

Opening Date: 2019

Dollywood's newest land will feature 11 experiences for guests, comprised of six unique ride attractions, including a suspended family roller coaster called The Dragonflyer, a 55-foot-tall Wildwood Tree, live entertainment, various indoor and outdoor play areas for families to enjoy, a new restaurant and more.

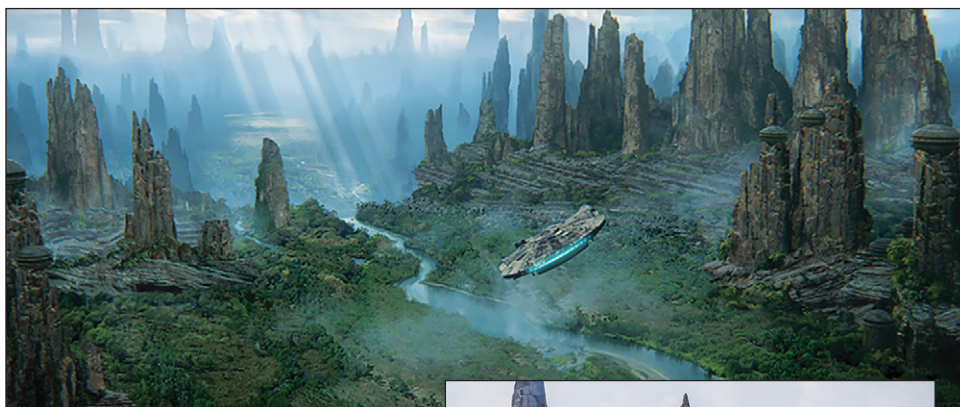
THE LEGO MOVIE WORLD

Location: Legoland Florida, formerly The World of Chima

Opening Date: Spring 2019

The largest investment since Legoland Florida first opened in 2011, The Lego Movie World will feature three new rides, character meet and greets and a giant themed playscape.

STAR WARS: GALAXY'S EDGE



Location: Disney's Hollywood Studios, formerly Streets of America and Lights, Motors, Action; Disneyland Park, formerly backstage area

Opening Date: Summer 2019 (Disneyland Park), Late Fall 2019 (Disney's Hollywood Studios)

The totally immersive land will include two attractions that allow guests to have control of their experiences. One will put guests in the middle of a battle between the First Order and the Resistance—inside a Star Destroyer. In the second attraction, guests will have the chance to fly the Millennium Falcon.



INFINITY FALLS

Location: SeaWorld Orlando, former SEAGarden area

Opening Date: Summer/Fall 2018

Infinity Falls will be a new water rapids ride that will send each raft twisting and turning through a jungle environment. A unique vertical elevator will lift each raft for a dramatic launch into the river, 40 feet below, making it the world's tallest river rapid drop.



PHOTO BY BANKS LEE

NEW HARRY POTTER ATTRACTION IN HOGSMEADE

Location: Islands of Adventure, formerly Dragon Challenge

Opening Date: 2019

Details on the new roller coaster are scarce, but this all-new family thrill ride will take you deeper into J.K. Rowling's Wizarding World and will be unlike anything Universal has done before.



MICKEY AND MINNIE'S RUNAWAY RAILWAY



Location: Disney's Hollywood Studios, formerly The Great Movie Ride

Opening Date: 2019

Mickey & Minnie's Runaway Railway will feature a new original story and theme song, as it takes guests on a journey inside the wacky and unpredictable world of Disney Channel's Mickey Mouse cartoon shorts. New technologies will transform the two-dimensional cartoon world into a multi-dimensional experience.

ANT-MAN AND THE WASP: NANO BATTLE

Location: Hong Kong Disneyland, formerly Buzz Lightyear Astro Blasters

Opening Date: 2019

Guests will take an ordinary visit to the S.H.I.E.L.D. Science and Technology Pavilion at Stark Expo, when things suddenly take a turn for the worse. They'll climb into S.H.I.E.L.D.'s state-of-the-art vehicles, and engage in battle alongside Ant-Man and The Wasp as they fight Zola and his army of Hydra swarm-bots.

SESAME STREET LAND



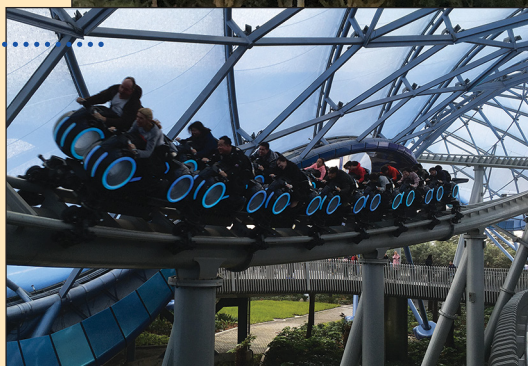
Location: SeaWorld Orlando, formerly Shamu's Happy Harbor

Opening Date: Spring 2019

Sesame Street Land will be an immersive area recreating the famous street and featuring rides, dry and wet play areas, interactive experiences, plus a new day parade.

PLUS ...

- Universal's Endless Summer Resort (second phase) at Universal Orlando Resort in 2020
- Beauty and the Beast and Big Hero 6 attractions at Tokyo Disneyland in 2020
- Universal Studios Beijing in 2020
- Legoland New York in Goshen, New York in 2020
- Guardians of the Galaxy E-ticket ride at Epcot by 2021
- Ratatouille attraction at Epcot by 2021
- Tron Lightcycle Power Coaster at Magic Kingdom by 2021
- Frozen, Peter Pan and Tangled-themed lands at Tokyo DisneySea in 2022
- Space-themed restaurant at Epcot
- Super Nintendo World at Universal Studios Florida, Hollywood and Japan
- Disney Skyliner at Walt Disney World
- Star Wars-themed immersive hotel at Walt Disney World
- Marvel-themed lands at Disneyland, Hong Kong Disneyland and Walt Disney Studios Park
- Frozen and Star Wars-themed lands at Walt Disney Studios Park
- New Sesame Place theme park





NEWS IN THE QUEUE

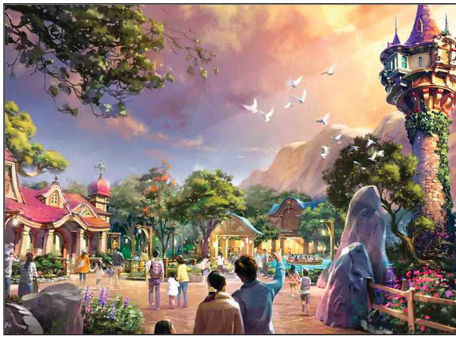
By Quinn Roseboom

NEW LANDS AND STAGE SHOW

LOCATION: Tokyo DisneySea

A new themed port is coming to DisneySea in 2020. The eighth themed port will be inspired by a magical spring which leads to a world of magic and fantasy. The port will be made up of three areas that recreate the worlds of Frozen, Peter Pan and Tangled. There will also be a deluxe hotel with a one-of-a-kind luxury wing that is set to be the most luxurious accommodations ever at the resort. Four new attractions will be developed for the expansion, as well as three restaurants and one merchandise location. The new themed port will be connected to other areas of the park through a pathway between Lost River Delta and Arabian Coast.

A bit sooner than the expansion, a new stage show, called "Song of Mirage," will open next year at the Hangar Stage in Lost River Delta. This show will feature an original story, along with singing, dancing, projection mapping and everyone's favorite Disney characters. As a result of this new show opening, the current show, "Out of Shadowland", will close March 31.



PHOTOS BY TOKYO DISNEY

SO LONG SINDBAD

LOCATION: Universal's Islands of Adventure

Another opening-day attraction is closing. The "Eighth Voyage of Sindbad" stunt show took guests to a mysterious grotto where Sindbad and his sidekick Kabob perform death-defying stunts in order to rescue Princess Amoura from the evil witch Miseria. The last day of performances for the show will be on Sept. 15, and there's no word on what will be replacing it.



DOWNTOWN D-OOPS!

LOCATION: Disneyland Resort

Plans have halted for the previously announced Four Diamond hotel at the Disneyland Resort, which was scheduled to open in 2021. The project has been put on indefinite hold after Disney and the city of Anaheim could not agree over the terms of development. The hotel was going to transform the west side of the Downtown Disney District, which led to the closings of many fan-favorite businesses like Earl of Sandwich, ESPN Zone, AMC 12 Theatres, Rainforest Cafe and others. These businesses closed on June 30, in order to prepare for construction — which was supposed to begin in July.

YAS WARNER BROS!

LOCATION: Warner Bros. World, Yas Island, Abu Dhabi

Warner Bros. World officially opened July 25, making it the world's first-ever Warner Bros.-branded indoor theme park. The park is composed of six themed lands: DC's Metropolis and Gotham City, Bedrock, Cartoon Junction, Dynamite Gulch and Warner Bros. Plaza. These six lands host 29 rides, interactive attractions and live entertainment. Guests can also enjoy themed dining experiences — from quick-service to full-service sit-down restaurants and cafés — along with custom-designed shops featuring Warner Bros. merchandise inspired by the characters.



A BETTER LOCKER SYSTEM

LOCATION: Universal Orlando Resort



On July 9, the Revenge of the Mummy attraction officially opened its new locker location, moved from outside of the ride to inside the former entrance. In addition to the relocation, the new lockers were updated with Locker Link technology, which has eliminated the fingerprint scanners and now allows guests to use the barcode on their ticket to reserve and re-open a locker. Universal has also announced they plan to update locker locations throughout the parks. Mummy and Hulk are the only two attractions on the new system currently.

'TAKUMI' DINING

LOCATION: Epcot



A new table service restaurant is headed to the Japan Pavilion in World Showcase, and will offer guests a signature dining experience inspired by the beauty of Japan. The restaurant's setting will take inspiration from both nature and takumi, which means artisan in Japanese. This new restaurant will be operated by Mitsukoshi USA, which also operates the merchandise location, the restaurants Teppan Edo and Tokyo Dining, and the kiosks in the Japan Pavilion. An opening date hasn't been announced, nor has the exact location.

SPRINGFIELD IN MYRTLE BEACH

LOCATION: Myrtle Beach, S.C.

A new dimension of family fun has come with a first-of-its-kind stand-alone attraction in "The Simpsons in 4D". This all-new experience features a full-size Kwik-E-Mart and Aztec Theater. In the theater, guests join The Simpsons in a new 4D adventure. Included in all tickets will be a Hollywood premiere-style souvenir photo for fans to share their own red carpet moment. After the show, the guests are able to visit the fully-themed iconic convenience store which sells a wide array of products including Buzz Cola, Heat-Lamp Hot Dogs, Lard Lad Donuts, and of course Squishees, as well as unique Simpsons merchandise.



NIGHTLY CELEBRATIONS

LOCATION: Universal Studios Florida



The new Universal Cinematic Celebration nighttime show utilizes panoramic and multi-layer water screens, pyrotechnics, lasers, projection mapping and more than 120 dancing fountains to turn the park's lagoon and its surrounding buildings into a colorful celebration of characters from Universal attractions and films. The show includes moments from the Harry Potter film series, prehistoric roars from Jurassic World, action-packed scenes from the Fast & Furious films and more.



VISIT 'FLAVORTOWN' IN ORLANDO

LOCATION: Disney Springs



A newly opened quick-service restaurant called Chicken Guy! is the creation of celebrity chef Guy Fieri and restaurateur Robert Earl. These two collaborated on the new burger and sandwich menu at the connecting Planet Hollywood, and have come together once

again to create a new concept that features all-natural, fresh chicken tenders. Guests can choose between grilled or fried chicken tenders with their choice of over 20 varieties of signature sauces. Other offerings include chicken sandwiches and salads, and Flavortown frozen treats.



YOU GOT YOUR PEANUT BUTTER IN MY CHOCOLATE!

LOCATION: Hersheypark, Hershey, Pa.

Hersheypark has announced plans for an all-new interactive dark ride, Reese's Cupfusion. The ride will combine peanut butter and

chocolate with a dark ride experience and multi-level game technology starting next summer. On the ride, guests will become Reese's Agent Trainees under the guidance of Commander Cup, and must protect the Crystal Cup that runs Reese's Central. Watch out for the nefarious Mint the Merciless and The League of Misfit Candy!



BUILDING BY THE INSTRUCTIONS

LOCATION: Legoland New York, Goshen, New York



A new model revealed the first look at the eight themed lands that will make up the brand-new, 150-acre Legoland New York. The lands will be The Factory, Bricktopia, Lego Ninjago World, Heartlake City, Knights' Kingdom, Lego City, Pirate Shores and Miniland. The resort will also feature a Legoland Hotel, which will be open year-round for guests. Each of the hotel's 250 rooms will be themed to a popular Lego toy, which will be announced at a later date. The park will be open seasonally from spring to fall, and will host its grand opening in spring 2020.

90 YEARS OF THE BIG CHEESE

LOCATION: Disney Parks and Resorts

Mickey's birthday celebration will span across the six global Disney Parks and aboard the Disney Cruise Line, along with an interactive art exhibit in New York.

Next year will kick off "The World's Biggest Mouse Party" at all the parks and resorts, but before then, Walt Disney World will celebrate Mickey's birthday from Nov. 16 to 18 with special merchandise and food and beverage items. Disneyland will host a special celebration cavalcade on the big day, Nov. 18, featuring some of Mickey's friends and the Disneyland Band. Hong Kong will begin its World's Biggest Mouse Party on Mickey's birthday with

commemorative park tickets, special food and beverage offerings, merchandise, a hotel room overlay and a "We Love Mickey" projection show through February. And finally at Shanghai Disneyland, a giant birthday card will be installed next to the Storytellers statue, featuring birthday wishes from all of Mickey's best pals.



SAY ALOHA TO 'OLU AND COOKIE

LOCATION: Disney Parks and Resorts



Duffy the Disney Bear has a couple of new friends to add to his ever-growing list! 'Olu the turtle, an exclusive character to Aulani Resort & Spa in Hawaii, helped write a special birthday song for ShellieMay on his ukulele. In addition, a puppy chef named Cookie is now at Hong Kong Disneyland Resort, where she and Duffy bumped into each other while carrying different foods, creating a "cotton candy waffle sandwich" along with a new friendship. While Cookie is currently meeting and greeting guests in Hong Kong, 'Olu is currently only available in merchandise form.

THE CLEVEREST GIRL

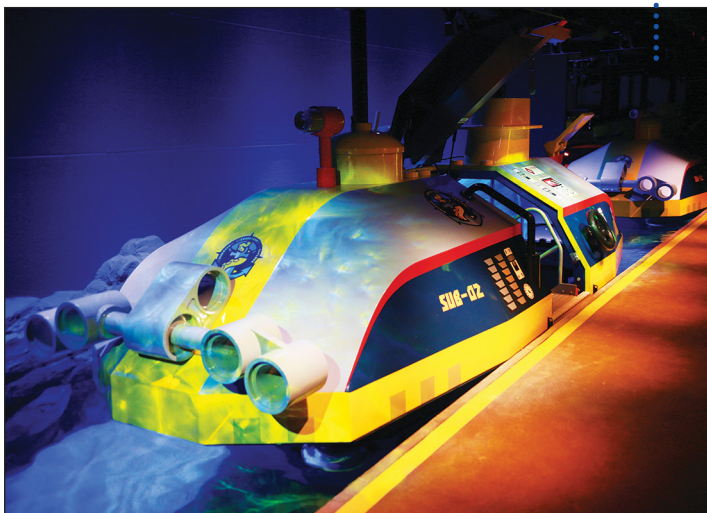
LOCATION: Universal's Islands of Adventure and Universal Studios Hollywood

Blue, the raptor from the Jurassic World films, can now be found at the Jurassic Park Raptor Encounter. Blue replaces the former raptors guests were able to meet, and has unique upgrades. Blue's teeth and eyes are more realistic, with her eyes even blinking from time to time. Her skin also looks more realistic than previous raptors and holds that same iridescent blue her on-screen version is known for.



20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE BRICKS

LOCATION: Legoland California Resort



The Lego City: Deep Sea Adventure is now open! Guests board a submarine that will take them underwater to discover a world filled with real and Lego sealife. Through the use of interactive touch screens at each porthole of the sub, guests can help a Lego Minifigure dive team identify Lego pearls, gems, gold coins and more throughout their four-minute undersea adventure.

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY MOUSE

LOCATION: Disney Parks and Resorts

By mid-2019, Disney will eliminate single-use plastic straws and stirrers at all of their owned and operated locations around the world, which will be a reduction of over 175 million straws and 13 million stirrers annually. The use of plastic shopping bags in the parks and on the cruise line will also be reduced, and guests will have the option to purchase reusable bags instead.



NO MORE PUPPET SHOWS

LOCATION: Disney's Hollywood Studios



A new Disney Junior Dance Party! has replaced the current Disney Junior Live On Stage! show. The new experience is a high-energy, live show featuring the Disney Junior television shows "Mickey and the Roadster Racers," "Doc McStuffins," "The Lion Guard" and "Vampirina." The Disney Junior Live On Stage! show, pictured here, closed Sept. 2.



AMC CINE-WALK

LOCATION: Universal Orlando Resort



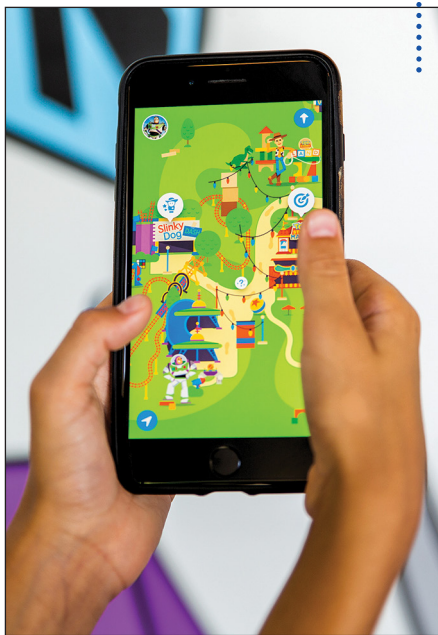
The AMC movie theater is transforming into Universal Cinemark, including reclining seats and a Cinemark XD theater. The current Universal AMC theater will close Sept. 14 to prepare for the debut of Universal Cinemark soon after. Remodeling work will then begin to add all of the new enhancements.

A NEW WAY TO PLAY IN THE PARKS

LOCATION: Disneyland and Walt Disney World

The new "Play Disney Parks" mobile app was created to turn guests' wait time into play time with interactive experiences created for select attraction queues. Players can earn, collect and share themed achievements, and be rewarded for playing games, completing challenges and experiencing certain attractions.

The Play Disney Parks app is said to evolve over time as the parks open new offerings and experiences. See if you can find the hidden hints at the upcoming Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge and the Tron Lightcycle coaster by playing around on the free app.



ROOKIE RACERS REJOICE!

LOCATION: Disney's Hollywood Studios



An all-new show is coming to Sunset Showcase next year. It will bring guests into the world of "Cars," and face-to-face with Lightning McQueen. With a little bit of help from his friends Mater and Cruz Ramirez, McQueen will share some of the moves he's learned over the years with guests, to help inspire the next generation of rookie racers.

WATERFRONT ITALIAN DINING

LOCATION: Disney Springs



James Beard Award-winning Chef Tony Mantuano has opened his newest restaurant, Terralina Crafted Italian, giving guests a chance to savor authentic Italian food and wines. This new dining location was inspired by the design of Northern Italy's Lake Como, set far away from city life and surrounded by villages. The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner, and also offers cooking classes.



PHOTO FINDS

Theme Parks and Attractions are always filled with fun things to see and our photographers are there to capture it all.



Give Kids the World Village sponsored a number of **Behind the Themes** tours this past summer which gave participants a look at theme park companies such as Bob's Space Racers, Sally Corporation and Skyline Attractions. The tour at **Fun Spot America** in Orlando allowed guests to walk part of the **White Lightning** roller coaster track, all for a great cause.



Busch Gardens Tampa offered limited-time **Roller Coaster Tours** in August, which were so popular, they had to add more dates. The highlight of the tour for most was getting to **walk along the top of the Sheikra** dive coaster.



Epcot was safer than usual this summer as the **Guardians of the Galaxy – Awesome Mix Live!** Concert took place multiple times each day from June 9 to Aug. 19. Guests rocked out with **Star-Lord, Gamora** and an **alien band** on the America Gardens Theatre stage in World Showcase.



The first-ever Disney FanDaze was held June 2 at the **Walt Disney Studios** park at Disneyland Paris. The event was all about the characters, as many rarely seen ones were on hand. **Ortensia**, Oswald the Lucky Rabbit's girlfriend, also made her debut. In addition to meeting the characters, there was a **DuckTales** parade, a stage show starring Goofy's son Max, as well as talks by Imagineers and Disney officials. The special-ticketed event ended with a nearly 100 character parade.



This year's **Mickey's Not So Scary Halloween Party** featured some new additions. Although Space Mountain is already a ride in the dark, during the parties, they turned out all the lights and added some spooky music. The **Mad Tea Party** added lights and music. Over at **Pirates of the Caribbean**, two live pirates were in the queue **warning guests to be on the lookout for Gunpowder Pete**, who was seen during the ride taunting guests as their boat sailed by.





VERSUS

We put attractions head-to-head.

By Tharin White

Disney Parks and Resorts have a huge love for the Toy Story films. In fact, there are four Toy Story-themed lands spread out throughout Disney Parks across the globe: Disney•Pixar Toy Story Land in Shanghai Disneyland, Toy Story Land in Hong Kong Disneyland, Toy Story Playland in the Walt Disney Studios Park in Disneyland Paris, and the latest, Toy Story Land in Disney's Hollywood Studios in Walt Disney World. This versus will compare and contrast the offerings of four different areas.

TOY STORY LAND VS. TOY STORY LANDS

DISNEY'S HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS

HONG KONG DISNEYLAND

SHANGHAI DISNEYLAND

WALT DISNEY STUDIOS

NUMBER OF ATTRACTIONS



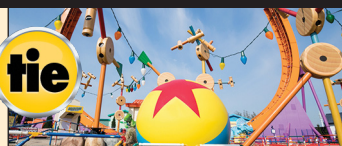
tie

Disney's Hollywood Studios offers Slinky Dog Dash, Alien Swirling Saucers, and Toy Story Mania.



tie

Hong Kong Disneyland offers Toy Soldier Parachute Drop, RC Racer and Slinky Dog Spin.



tie

Shanghai Disneyland offers Slinky Dog Spin, Woody's Roundup, and Rex's Racer.



tie

Walt Disney Studios Park offers Toy Soldier Parachute Drop, Slinky Dog Zigzag Spin and RC Racer.

FOOD & BEVERAGE



Hollywood Studios' food offerings come in a close second. This land also offers full meals, with options like a BBQ Brisket Melt, Grilled Tater Tot nachos and specialty Lunch Box Tarts.



Jessie's Snack Roundup is the only place to grab a bite. This small food location offers very limited snack options, with no choices for a full meal.



winner

Disney fans quite regularly agree that Disney's Asia-based parks offer the most unique food options. Shanghai proves that point with Alien-shaped Hawaiian Pizza, a Bubble Waffle Dessert, and specialty-themed Honey-Pomelo drinks.



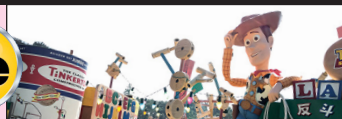
There are no food and beverage locations inside Toy Story Playland.

CHARACTER INTERACTIONS



tie

Buzz, Jessie, and Woody can all be found inside Toy Story Land at Hollywood Studios. The Green Army Men are also spread throughout the land. They play music, march around and interact with guests.



Guests are able to meet with Woody and Jessie. Children can also interact with Cubot, a robot whose spin-able blocks change his voice and personality. The Green Army Men are also patrolling the land in search of new recruits to play with.



Guests can meet Jessie and Woody at the Meeting Post. There is also an interactive water show called Farmer Al's Splash Around. This water show invites guests to splash with a group of cast members in a high energy dance and play along.



Guests at the Disneyland Paris Resort can meet Buzz and Woody, but not inside Toy Story Playland. Buzz can be found in the Toon Studio area, while Woody can be found in the Disneyland Paris park in Frontierland.

UNIQUE ASPECT



winner

Slinky Dog Dash has quickly become a fan favorite Toy Story attraction. This dual-launching roller coaster takes guests sweeping in-and-out, all over Toy Story Land. The ride covers nearly half of the land, and looks beautiful day and night.



Hong Kong offers a large assortment of lesser-used characters in their theming. Mr. Potato Head is larger than life at Andy's Toy Box. Cubot allows kids to directly interact with a character in the park, and alter their appearance and voice. Rex is also great for a photo-op, as guests will see him at one of the entrances to the land.



Woody's Roundup is the only Woody-themed ride of its kind. While it shares the same ride system as Alien Swirling Saucers at Hollywood Studios, the spinning music-filled corral is exclusive to Shanghai. The attraction's unique queue will take guests on a desert pathway around a Western-inspired backdrop.



Toy Story Playland's Parachute Drop attraction offers amazing views of the park. From a high-up, look at the Tower of Terror, to an overview of the Paris-themed area of the Ratatouille attraction, Parachute Drop offers numerous ways to get a glimpse of the park.

Show your true colors.
T-shirts, mugs, stickers, cases and more.



AttractionsMagazine.com/Store

Edward Meyer is a Warden of the Weird, Believe It or Not!

"It's not a museum, it's an odditorium," said Edward Meyer, the recently-retired vice president of Exhibits and Archives for Ripley's Believe It or Not. And when you start with that premise, you know you're in for something outrageous. He is the man who, like Robert Ripley before him, seeks out the "odd" that fills the odditorium.

Edward spent 40 years with the company before his retirement in June, and he has stories to tell.

What sparked your interest in all the curiosities that Robert Ripley collected?

There was a thing in Canada called

Canada Manpower, a government organization designed to get students summer jobs. I was going to the University of Toronto to be a librarian. On my very last day of school, having just finished a four-hour exam in a football stadium, I met a very dear friend of mine, Noreen Crawford, who convinced me I could not go home just having finished school. She said I really needed to go to the Canada Manpower office and see if I could find a summer job. I had been in that office 50 times and hated the place. There was never anything even vaguely what I wanted for a job. She literally took me by the arm and dragged me into this little

office, and my eyes were drawn to this little 3x5 library card. It was like there was a halo around it. It said "Wanted: Library Science student to catalogue cartoons." The company at the time was Ripley International, so I didn't even know I was applying for Ripley's Believe It or Not. I was a catalogue expert and cartoons seemed like a fun thing to catalogue. I phoned them, and it turned out they were close by. They said, "Come for an interview right now." I made a bunch of excuses, and they said, "No, come now. We're a pretty casual bunch, and we're interested in getting somebody quick." I got on the subway, went four stops, and was there in 10 minutes. I had three interviews in five minutes and I started work the next day.

What were your thoughts when you realized the company you were working for was Ripley's Believe It or Not?

When I got the job and realized who I would be dealing with, I thought it was pretty darned cool. Ripley's is an unusual company, and I was the oddball, even in the oddball company. When the company changed ownership in 1985, the new owner, Jim Pattison, wanted Ripley's all over the world. He looked at me and said, "You seem to know what the company is all about. Go buy more stuff!" I went from being a quiet librarian to being a public figure as a professional shopper.

You're originally from Toronto, Canada. What brought you to Orlando?

The headquarters of Ripley's was in Toronto from 1963 to 1993. We closed that shop, and only five people came to Orlando and started all over again. I was one of those five people. I've been 25 years in Orlando as of July.



Edward shows off one of Ripley's most iconic exhibits — the trademark shrunk heads.

Have you traveled as widely as Robert did in search of the next generation of exhibits, and what have been your most memorable purchases?

I've been to 47 countries and 47 states. Ripley exhibits have to be unbelievable. There should be what I call a "wow factor" that you look at and go, "Wow, I didn't know that," or "Wow, that's really gross," or "Wow, that's really beautiful." That's a word that excites me. We try very hard to find unique exhibits; things you won't see somewhere else. A shrunken head is kind of our iconic item. Other museums have shrunken heads, but they're typically not on display. They might have one, while Ripley's has 120 of them. I've bought some items I'm really proud of, including the Berlin Wall; John Wilkes Booth's derringer; the trumpet that sounded Taps at Lincoln's funeral; George Washington's jewelry. I've also bought two-headed cows. A two-trunked elephant is probably the strangest thing I've ever bought. And then there's micro-miniatures, and they are my all-time favorites. I first saw one at Expo '87 in Vancouver and it was several years before I got my first one. Many years later, I met Willard Wigan of England, who has made a career of making them, and I went to buy Betty Boop in the eye of a needle and came back with 97 miniature sculptures, all either in the eye of a needle or on the head of a pin. They are the most amazing things I ever bought.

What were some of the countries you've been to that would catch people's attention?

I love China, as did Robert Ripley. I bought a lot of jade in China, a lot of camel bone carvings, and some really cool



Meyer shows off a torch from the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in 2016. Ripley Entertainment has made a point to collect a series of memorable items from various events around the globe, and one of their signature collections features Olympic torches.

paintings inside crystal balls, done with a one-hair brush. The paintings are beautiful, but it's the technique and the wonder of how it's done that really attracted me. I spent a long time in India, and I don't think there is any country stranger than India. At the turn of every corner there is something new and exciting. The Māori civilization of New Zealand is one of my favorite things. We have some Māori scalping clubs. They make them out of jade, they make them out of bone, they make them out of wood. They're a strange shape, and when you look at it, you'd never know what it was. Ethnic, graphic, tribal stuff from Southeast Asia and the islands truly intrigues me. There is a thing called Ta Moko, which are tattooed human faces. Actual skulls with tattoos. That is probably the only thing I've never bought, because it's illegal to buy. I

also love middle-America. No matter how small or insignificant they appear, I find all kinds of weird stuff in little towns that intrigues me. Nineteenth-century America had to have been an interesting place.

What sort of oddities have you come across in small towns?

[There] was a time in my life when I kept thinking I was being followed by Disney. I just kept running into little Disney things everywhere. I guess I was on my way to look at the world's largest string ball or something, and I had no idea where I was, or anything about the place. I see this billboard that says, "The Home of Walt Disney". I thought, this is worth stopping and finding out what Walt was doing here. It was in Marceline Missouri, the town Walt Disney was born



According to Meyer, a classic Ripley's exhibit is anything that makes the visitor say "wow"! That is certainly true of Orlando's Odditorium, which features a massive 25-foot-high Jimmy Hendrix mural — made entirely out of playing cards.

in, and I stayed in a little hotel that had a hand-done sign above the sink that read, "Please do not wash your rifle here." I will never forget that as being quintessential Middle-America. Not concerned that you have a rifle in your hotel room, but don't wash it in the sink. In "The Home of Walt Disney"! (Editor's Note: Walt Disney wasn't born in Marceline, but he did grow up there. Read more about it on page 44.)

How would you describe a typical Ripley's Odditorium to someone who has never been?

Typically, there are 400 to 500 exhibits done in themed galleries. There are lots of videos, and, until 1985, we had one film that was a bio of Robert Ripley. Now, every gallery has three or four films. There are inventions, there's science,

there's tribal, there's art. Over the years, we got more and more crazy art. Ripley's Odditorium is a place to see strange things that you can't see anywhere else, and you will find it unbelievable. It's multi-generational. We try hard to get stuff that will appeal to five-year-olds, and to grandpa who remembers reading the Ripley's cartoons.

What makes an ideal Ripley's exhibit?

You want it to be unique. Something people haven't seen before, and they're going to remember seeing it. I run into people all the time who say things like, "I remember being in Ripley's in Saint Augustine in 1956 and they had an iron maiden torture device and a shrunken head." Something that leaves a permanent impression is, ultimately, the goal.

What adaptations to modern trends have you seen in the last 10 or 15 years?

Ripley's, and the museum business in general, has become photo-centric. Everybody wants to take a photo. They're not even really looking at the exhibit. They take a photo and then they send it by social media all over the world. It's all about taking a photo with "whatever." The wax museums used to keep people 30 feet away from the statue; now you get to put your arm around it. Hopefully people aren't climbing on them or etching their name in them, but they can get right up beside it and get their photo taken. It's the single biggest change in the museum business in my career. We realize people want to take pictures, and they want to send those pictures, so "social media kiosks" are a big part of what you'll find in a Ripley's today. Science museums were well ahead of the curve in terms of interactives, giving the patron something physical to do, but they lacked hard-core exhibitry. With our partnership, we gave them hard exhibits and they gave us interactives, and that combination is the way it has to go. It's a good thing for everybody. There is also an increased use of video. Graphics and text are filmed, and they scroll across a display screen, and the exhibit is behind it. It's not dramatically different, it just jazzes it up a bit. People don't like to read, so it gives them the opportunity to read something shorter, and in a different format. But I've written a lot of "show cards," and I always wrote knowing only 10 percent read them, but that 10 percent read every word, so I wanted to give them something worth reading.

There has been a lot of publicity about "the dress," which cost \$4.8 million, in terms of one of Ripley's most expensive purchases, but what is one of the least expensive things that you're most proud of buying?

The Marilyn [Monroe] dress is a big part of my history. Prior to the dress, I'd already bought about 150 items, so Marilyn and I go back to at least 1999. Least expensive? Off the top of my head, the Lord's Prayer engraved on a pin head. Ripley featured this pin in a cartoon in 1929. He then had the actual pin on display in his first Odditorium at the Chicago World's Fair in 1933, and the pin had a fair bit of publicity and notoriety in



The oddities at Ripley's come in all shapes and sizes, and from all kinds of material. Meyer points to a recreation of da Vinci's painting of "The Last Supper", created completely from laundry lint, as well as a micro miniature painting version.

the 1930s. It disappeared in 1939, never to be seen again. Or so people thought. I found it in a matchbox in 1989, fifty years later, in Seattle, Washington, amongst a collection of other miniatures. I paid \$500 for the whole collection, so that pin probably only cost me about \$10, and it is worth well over a million dollars today. It's on display in Saint Augustine.

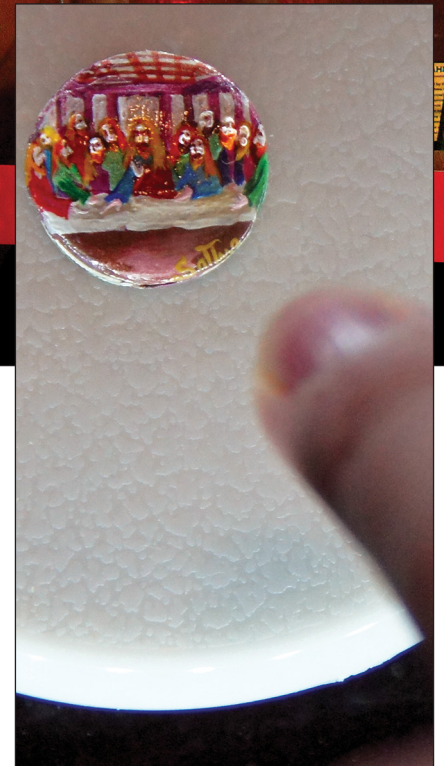
You're writing your memoirs. Can you tell us about that?

It's something I always wanted to

do. I didn't have time as long as I had a full-time job, but I literally started two days after my last day in the office, and I hope to publish it next year, in time for Ripley's 100th anniversary.

What are your final thoughts on the ongoing interest in Robert Ripley?

It speaks volumes about the curiosity people have all over the world for what they don't know about. Human curiosity is at the core of Ripley's Believe It or Not, and Robert Ripley personally. He traveled



all over the world looking for things he didn't know about, and thought the average American didn't either. He was curious and he thought the rest of the world was curious. He was an educator, but in an entertaining way.

Skipper Ben's TOP TEN

By "Skipper" Ben Rebstock

Top 10 Ways to Enjoy the Theme Parks by Yourself

Let me let you in on a little secret. While I love visiting theme parks with all of my friends and family, I also love going by myself. Earlier this summer, I did just that by visiting Universal Studios Florida

and Universal's Islands of Adventure on my own for a day. So, if you find yourself in a position to go to the parks by yourself, do it! And follow my top 10 tips to help you enjoy "your" day.



10

ARRIVE WHEN YOU WANT

OK, this one might seem obvious, but it's a big thing. Since you're going by yourself, you can decide when you want to arrive. Do you want to get up before the sun and be the first one in the parking garage? Or do you want to sleep in and take advantage of some of the ways you can tour the parks by yourself? It's all up to you. There's no waiting on everyone to get ready, no waiting on the kids to finish their cereal, you do you, and get to the parks when you want.

9

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SINGLE RIDER LINES

If you want to sleep in like I mentioned in tip number 10, that's fine, because you can make up for lost time by utilizing the single rider line at many of the attractions at most theme parks. Hour-long waits can take you just minutes. As you enter the single rider lines, they always remind you that you won't be riding with the people next to you and that groups will be broken up. Big deal, right? You aren't here with anyone, so skip the long lines, take the shortcut, and get on those popular rides super quick.



8

RIDE WHAT YOU WANT TO RIDE FIRST

When going to the parks with other people, everyone wants to start the day the way they want to. Rarely does everyone agree on what to do first. But, when you go to the parks by yourself, you get to choose how to start your day! No kiddie rides for the young ones, no need to have to hit the newest ride or most popular ride in the park first. You can do whatever you want! For me, that was skipping anything Harry Potter-related and instead heading directly to Marvel Super Hero Island to ride my favorite ride in the world, The Amazing Adventures of Spider-Man! It was the perfect way to start my day.



7

SKIP RIDES

Just like riding what you want to ride first, you can also skip the rides you don't enjoy without fear of making someone in your group upset. Me, I don't enjoy the water rides where you get soaked from head-to-toe — and stay that way all day. So, no Toon Lagoon for me. You might not enjoy roller coasters. Dark rides might not be your thing. Simulators might make you sick. Don't worry about them, skip them and move on to the rides you love.



6

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

We live in a world where even when you're alone, you're never really alone. While you might be traveling solo through the parks, most of your friends and family members at home, or at work, or anywhere, would love to have the chance to trade spots with you. So brighten their day by posting on your social media channels and let them experience what you are experiencing. Take them on rides, post crazy selfies, live stream, maybe even ask them which ride you should go on next! Interacting with people on social media can make your solo day at the park feel like you are there with hundreds of your best friends.

5

EAT WHERE YOU WANT TO EAT

Again, it sounds simple, but you have no idea how easy it is to pick a place to eat in the parks when you're the only one

choosing. Everyone has different tastes and everyone has different favorite places. If you want a Krusty Burger, go get a Krusty Burger. If you want to eat at The Leaky Cauldron for lunch and dinner (which ... I may or may not have done), that's fine. And don't feel strange dining at a sit-down restaurant by yourself if that's what you want to do. You're at a theme park and everything is understood and accepted. Eat whatever and wherever you want to!



PHOTO BY UNIVERSAL ORLANDO

4

GO SEE A SHOW YOU LIKE

My kids are at the age where they would much rather go on rides than sit down for an hour to see a show. I'm at that age where my feet could use a break every now and then. So when you visit the parks by yourself, it's a great time to access things you tend to skip over when visiting with groups. For me, that means I usually miss some of my favorite shows. But when you're at the park alone, you can plan your day around showtimes much easier. I love the Universal Horror Make-Up Show. It's something I could see every time I go to the parks, but I often don't get around to it when trying to make everyone happy. So instead of putting these shows in the "we'll see it if we have time" category, make them a priority on your solo visit.



3

ENJOY A DRINK AT SOME GREAT BARS

Universal Orlando is loaded with great places to pull up a chair to the bar and have a drink. The friendly, talkative bar staff at most locations will help you pass the time and enjoy the day. For my trip, a stop by Moe's Tavern in Springfield was a no-brainer. I enjoyed a Duff Beer (or you can get a Flaming Moe, if you aren't of age) while chatting it up with the bartender. You can even venture into CityWalk to take a break from the parks to enjoy a drink at places like Margaritaville or the NBC Sports Grill & Brew.



2

RIDE YOUR FAVORITE RIDES OVER AND OVER

Have you ever gotten off a ride and thought to yourself, "I want to get back in line and ride it again, and again, and again"? Well, when you go to the parks by yourself, you can afford that luxury. And if you utilize the single-rider line, you'll be surprised just how many times you can go on your favorite attractions. Case in point: I went on Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey five times in less than an hour. That's enough to justify the price of admission to Universal alone! So, if you want to ride Transformers 10 times in a row, do it! Nobody is watching you.



PHOTO BY UNIVERSAL ORLANDO

LEAVE WHEN YOU WANT TO LEAVE

When you go to the parks by yourself, you get to decide when your fun is done. Maybe you went hard all day long, didn't take any breaks and are exhausted enough that you want to head back to your hotel before the park closes. Or maybe you can't leave until you see the very last firework go off from Universal's Cinematic Celebration nighttime show. Either way, when traveling by yourself, you get to decide when to call it a day. So make the most of it, have a blast, and enjoy your solo stay.

**DO YOU AGREE WITH BEN OR
HAVE A SUGGESTION FOR A FUTURE
TOP TEN?**

Let us know at info@attractionsmagazine.com
or contact Skipper Ben on Twitter [@RealSkipperBen](https://twitter.com/RealSkipperBen)



TOY STORY LAND NOW OPEN

The Larger-Than-Life Area at Disney's Hollywood Studios Suits 'Toys' of All Ages!

By Susan & Simon Veness



PHOTOS BY THARIN WHITE

It's all Go! on the iconic new Slinky Dog Dash ride at the heart of the new Toy Story Land at Disney's Hollywood Studios.





Walt Disney always liked to say “It all started with a mouse.” But, in the case of Walt Disney World’s latest – and most vivid – development, it all started with a desk lamp.

Luxo Jr. proved such a hit for the fledgling Pixar Animation Studios that Disney signed them to a three-film deal. Pixar’s unique all-CGI animation style had never been tried on a full-length movie before, and, in 1995, a whole company held its breath on the release of their debut effort. They needn’t have worried. “Toy Story” proved to be such a groundbreaking, industry-defining effort that Pixar – and Disney – have reaped nothing but rewards since.

Fast forward to 2018 and that Pixar magic is now in evidence from 20 box office hits, 19 Academy awards – and the new Toy Story Land at Disney’s Hollywood Studios.

Fittingly, Buzz Lightyear himself – as well as comedic master Tim Allen, who voices the charismatic character – were on hand to highlight the dedication ceremony for the new land on June 29, and the Studios park now offers an in-depth journey with Buzz, Woody and Co. that is sure to delight “toys” of all ages.

The Details

The essential nature of Toy Story



Buzz Lightyear, meet Buzz Lightyear! Actor Tim Allen, the voice of Buzz in the movies, greets his Toy Story character at the dedication ceremony.

Land, of course, is that all guests have been shrunk to toy size as they enter this colorful 11-acre expansion, and everything you see and experience is scaled to the size of the ever-present Green Army Men (more about them in due course).

It’s a carefully calculated, and beautifully executed, effect, and it was one that Disney’s Imagineers, in conjunction with the inventive movie minds of Pixar, set out to create from the get-go when the idea of this extensive enlargement was first proposed some five years ago.

Ivan Chan, project manager for Walt Disney Imagineering, told us, “This is the level of detail you’re seeing with Toy Story Land, just because the scale itself is larger than life. Every toy that you play with as a child usually fits in your palm, but now you are shrunk down to the size of a Green Army Man, everything is that much larger.

“Everywhere you walk, you start to see these details you never noticed before, whether it’s paint strokes or wood graining on toys, and these are the little things we like to put before our guests, and hopefully they’ll notice more details every time they come back.”

As ever with Disney, the small details build into a big picture of rich scope and imagination. The whole configuration of the new land is designed to draw visitors in, starting with an existing ride, Toy Story Mania, which has been reworked to have its entrance on the opposite side of the building from where guests entered in the past. (The Pixar Studios pathway is now a backstage area.)

It isn’t quite the first thing you see as you enter past the giant figure of Woody – that would be the huge red steel structure of Slinky Dog Dash, the land’s iconic



A larger-than-life Jessie the cowgirl wrangles Rex the dinosaur with some Christmas lights.

highlight – but it is the initial ride opportunity you encounter, closely followed by the whoosh of Slinky Dog Dash and the clatter of Alien Swirling Saucers, the latest in the evolutionary design of a spinning teacup ride.

Yet it is not so much the rides as the landscaping and, more importantly, the clever use of toy paraphernalia that really catches the eye. Slowly at first, and then with increasing realization, the hectic jumble of shapes and colors transform into familiar shapes, albeit on a different scale.

Tinker toys; Jenga blocks; K'Nex pieces; dominoes; checkers; dice; Brio train track; Scrabble letters; building blocks; crayons; Christmas tree lights; and Cooties (amusingly positioned by the restrooms), all zoom into sharp focus as you survey your surroundings.

Then there's Woody's Lunch Box quick-service option, where the whole edifice is, appropriately enough, a lunch-box turned on its side and propped open by a giant thermos. Some of the chairs are Babybel cheese pieces, while benches are made of popsicle sticks.

The more you look, the more you see as this flamboyant realm of children's playthings comes to life all around you, especially at night when the lighting is a masterpiece of the Imagineers' art.

Visitors are also challenged to seek out lots of these details themselves. "As

we have so many toys scattered throughout the land, it goes back to all that nostalgia of toys you may have played with as a child, and things that are inspired by the movies," Chan added. "When I look at the queue for Alien Swirling Saucers, I see the box where Buzz Lightyear came from,



The larger-than-life style of Toy Story Land is the overriding theme, with the likes of Woody and Buzz setting the scene, along with the Green Army Drum Corps.



The second feature ride of the new area is Alien Swirling Saucers, a wacky whirl with those other "green men".

which immediately reminds me of seeing "Toy Story" as a kid, and that gives me goosebumps.

"And those stories will be different for every guest, depending on what their favorite toy was growing up. For me, it was the balsa wood glider. That was something I played with as a child, and to see that in the land is very exciting for me. They are all over; the challenge is for guests to find them, and that's the exciting part for us as Imagineers. As you're walking through, be observant, and you will find things."

The Rides

The second key factor of the area is its individuality compared to Toy Story areas in Disneyland Paris, Shanghai Disneyland and Hong Kong Disneyland, and that was deliberate. Both new rides are one-offs in the Disney multiverse, and the depth of theming is greater, too, ensuring that the Slinky Dog coaster – a surprisingly dynamic attraction compared to the likes

of Big Thunder Mountain Railroad, The Barnstormer Starring The Great Goofini and Seven Dwarfs Mine Train – is a genuine plunge into the movie's dominion.

Chan explained, "For Disney's Hollywood Studios, we wanted to create an immersive environment, and ensure we have unique experiences compared to our other parks. By introducing Slinky Dog Dash and Alien Swirling Saucers, they are both unique to this land itself. Both attractions offer kids of all ages an experience they are not going to get anywhere else."

The fact Slinky Dog oozes family appeal is definitely part of Disney's thinking here. They wanted a ride that would have almost universal charm, but they also wanted it to have enough oomph for genuine coaster fans. Guests seem to think Slinky hits the mark on both counts, hence this is likely to be the most popular ride in the park for the foreseeable future (so be sure you get those FastPasses if you can).



There are numerous visual markers to remind guests they are now toy-size — like Andy's huge footprint in the backyard!

Chan was quick to confirm that point. "We wanted to capture that [all-around experience] with Slinky Dog Dash, as it's a brand new family-friendly coaster that will allow everyone to ride and venture



When it's time for something to eat in Toy Story Land, there are imaginative offerings at Woody's Lunch Box.



through the whole land just on one ride," he told us. "Alien Swirling Saucers is another adorable ride where you are actually towed around by our little green alien friends. But both are high-energy attractions." (Alien Swirling Saucers is similar to Mater's Junkyard Jamboree in Cars Land at Disney California Adventure and Woody's Roundup at Shanghai Disneyland.)

The Food

As well as the sights, sounds and rides of Toy Story Land, the other key aspect is the taste. If we tell you the main dining outlet here is a quick-service option with outdoor seating, you might be forgiven for thinking you'll still head to the Backlot Express or even Sci-Fi Dine-In Theater Restaurant for your meal stop. But, while the latter two both have the benefit of indoor seating in the air-conditioned cool (and we cannot emphasize that point enough in Orlando during the summer; Toy Story Land is short on shade.), the offerings of Woody's Lunch Box are pretty darn tempting.

Or, as Guest Experience Manager Evan Rosenthal told us, "One of the things we

really like to do at Disney is put a fun, nostalgic spin on things we love, and there's nowhere better for that opportunity than Woody's Lunch Box. So what you're going to see are some of your classic, favorite treats, but with a new, fun spin on them."

Not only has Disney's culinary team compiled menus for both breakfast and lunch/dinner, but they have dared to be different here, too, with items like the decadent S'more French Toast Sandwich and Banana Split Yogurt Parfait (at breakfast) and a rich BBQ Brisket Melt, Smoked Turkey and a Grilled Three-Cheese Sandwich (for lunch or dinner).

Let's just reiterate that one – S'more French Toast. For breakfast. Yes, really. That's French toast bread filled with chocolate ganache and marshmallow fluff, and a graham cracker crumble on top. "It really invokes those memories of being around the campfire," Evan added. We could practically smell the smoke.

Special mention should also be made for the outrageous (and utterly indulgent) use of tater tots in the Breakfast Bowl – featuring smoked brisket country gravy and scrambled eggs – and the lunch version, Totchos, with those barrels of potato

topped with a generous helping of bean and beef chili, shredded cheese, queso, sour cream and corn chips. A carbohydrate overload? You bet. Delicious? No question.

As if to prove their ability to hijack popular trends and give them their own spin, Disney's kitchen wizards have added Pop-Tarts to the menu. Not that they call them Pop-Tarts, you understand. The Raspberry Lunch Box Tart and Chocolate-Hazelnut Lunch Box Tart are roughly to Pop-Tarts what the Ford Mustang is to a Model T, but the basic idea is the same, just given a culinary dose of sophistication. The Raspberry version boasts a jam filling, while the Nutella-like option is topped with icing and caramelized bacon for that "something different" factor.

Adults are not forgotten, either, as there is a signature Grown-Up's Lemonade (Three Olives Cherry Vodka with Odwalla lemonade and black cherry puree) as well as Bud Light, Blue Moon and Angry Orchard Hard Cider, all of which are mighty welcome on a typical Orlando day, i.e. hot.

Oh, and if you miss the traditional Soda Fountain Floats, you will consign yourself to a life of desolate, ice cream

sadness. Not only can these classic treats be combined with any Coca-Cola product (Creamsicle, anyone?), as well as the authentic Barq's Root Beer, they are also available with Joffrey's Cold Brew Coffee for a scrummy caffeine-laced extravaganza. Take on Slinky Dog Dash after one of those and you will truly feel rocket propelled.

The Characters

Meanwhile, back in the land itself, there is one final element that is hard to overlook – and impossible not to smile at, again and again. Yes, it's those Green Army Men we mentioned earlier. Not only are they scattered through the landscaping in typical statuesque toy style, their more mobile counterparts (aka Disney meet-and-greet characters) appear at regular intervals to provide an extra touch of interactive fun as they urge guests to play catch, twirl hula hoops and otherwise indulge in quasi-military games.

We defy anyone not to respond in the appropriate way to the command of "Let me hear you say 'Sir, yes sir!'"

It's clear Pixar's own creative fingerprints are all over the land, and Chan confirmed, "A lot of our projects start off with Blue Sky [thinking], and that's where we start with concepts and different ideas we want to introduce to a certain park or a certain resort. During that phase, we did partner up with our Pixar partners to collaborate on the idea for the land we have today, so they have been an instrumental part of Toy Story Land."

Roger Gould, creative director, Theme Parks, Pixar Animation Studios, added, "Everyone at Pixar is thrilled to see the Toy Story films coming to life so spectacularly. Watching our stories and characters leap off the screen into the fun and whimsical world of Toy Story Land is a joy for all of us at the studio.

"Naturally, we love animation and we

love the Disney Parks, so it's amazing to collaborate with our partners at Walt Disney Imagineering to create this enormous immersive world. And, just as each Toy Story film expands the world of our favorite toy friends, our land gave us loads of opportunities to invent and open up the world with new fun and surprises. We're delighted to join Disney in the fun and invite guests to explore Andy's backyard – full of their favorite toys – 'cause Andy's away and it's time to play!"

The Future

And that's the simple message of this wonderfully vibrant new area – it's playtime, and there's plenty of fun in store. For Disney's Imagineers, though, there is no time to rest on their laurels. Toy Story Land is merely the opening stage of a long-term strategy to refocus the Studios park, as well as being the second of a "trifecta" of new lands for Walt Disney World, after Pandora: The World of Avatar at Disney's Animal Kingdom last year and Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge, which opens at Hollywood Studios in late 2019 (and at Disneyland Park next summer).

At a special media update following the dedication of the new land, Senior Imagineering Vice President Kathy Mangum explained the long-term philosophy. "We were looking at Disney's Hollywood Studios knowing we wanted



The pre-existing Toy Story Mania ride has been incorporated into the land, with a completely new entrance and "toy box" sign.

to add more to it," she said. "We wanted to start to transform that park into something that was giving our guests a more immersive experience into the movies."

So there you have it. The opening of Toy Story Land is not the end of anything, but merely the beginning of a new future for the park. The toys would surely approve.



Bright colors and plenty of characters are among the highlights of Toy Story Land, which also looks great at night.



ENTER A WORLD UNLIKE ANY OTHER WITH

EVERMORE PARK

By Brittani Tuttle



Take a step away from the real world and into the immersive, imaginative world of Evermore and its environments, like the Victorian Cemetery.

Theme park diehards dream of visiting worlds so innovative and immersive, they almost feel real. Out of that dream, Evermore Park was born.

Created by Ken Bretschneider, co-founder of The Void, and developed in collaboration with Josh Shipley, a former Walt Disney Imagineer, and Logan Long, a multiple-season contestant on "Face Off," Evermore Park is a European fantasy "experience park" in Pleasant Grove, Utah, just 30 miles south of Salt Lake City. Its goal is to immerse guests in its stories

and characters, and never have them set foot on a single ride.

That's right, no rides. Gone are the traditional theme park staples of boat rides, dark rides and roller coasters. Instead, the park will be filled with actors playing memorable characters and creatures, themed parties and seasonal events, and narratives that change over time with each visit.

"I think what's most exciting about Evermore is that there's not a lot of people doing anything like this at this scale," said TT Bretschneider, event development

lead for Evermore and daughter of CEO Ken Bretschneider. "I feel like a lot of people are reaching a point where they don't necessarily want to sit and watch anymore; they want to be fully engaged."

What immediately comes to mind when thinking of Evermore is "Westworld", the HBO series about a narrative-driven park populated by guests and the animatronic "hosts" who make



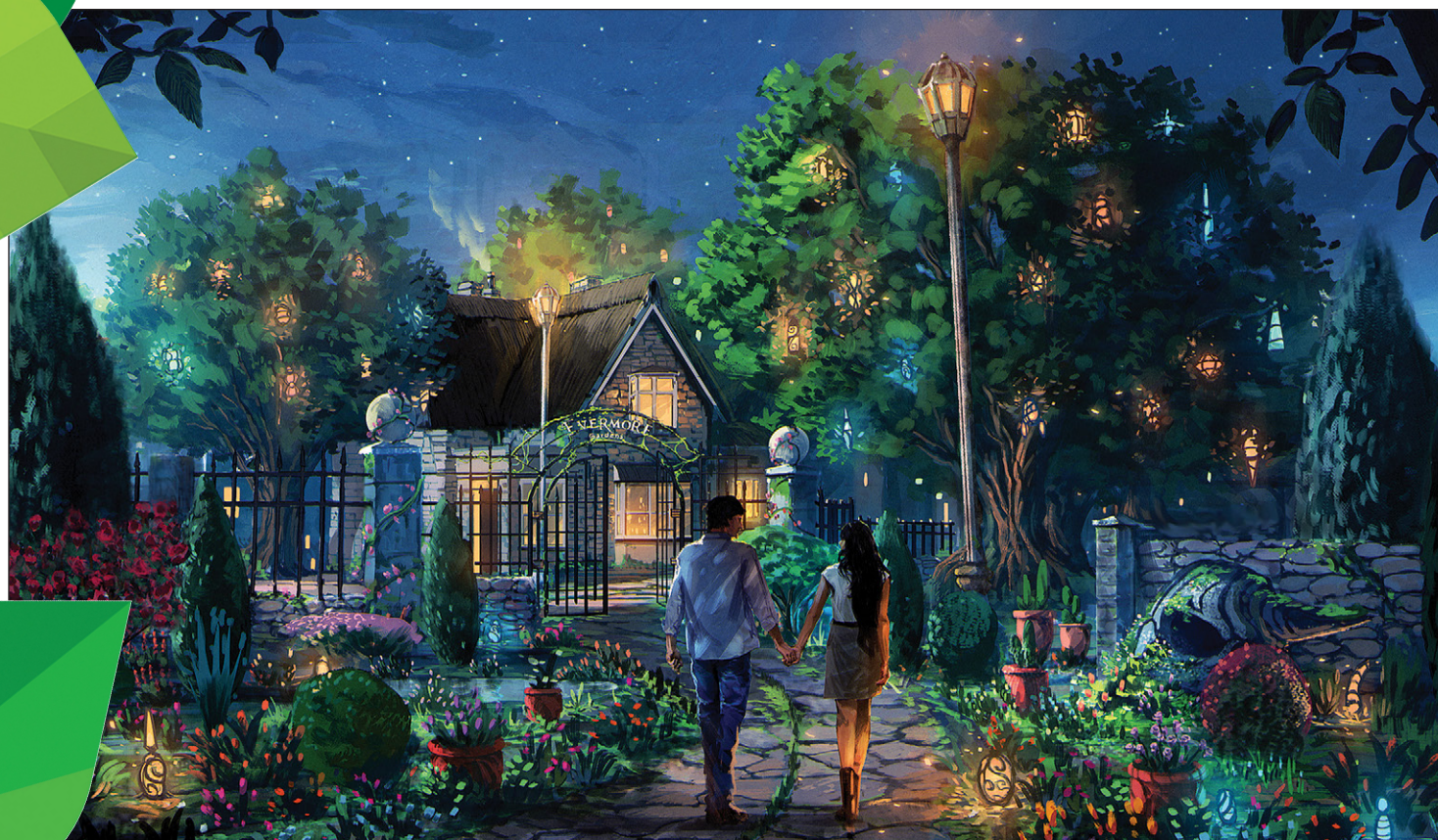
There's more than meets the eye with Evermore, and every area has its own story to tell.

up the park's enormous cast. With Evermore, the basic premise is the same: a park themed to a specific time period, varying narratives, a cast of characters to meet and interact with, and adventures around every turn, but with actors instead of killer robots.

"Evermore is the first-of-its-kind," said Bradley Cornilles, director of marketing. "Though its 11 acres have been built in Utah, the reach of Evermore will be worldwide. As the first-ever fully immersive, fully interactive, live theatre smart park, Evermore is now in a class by itself.



The Notting Glass House will host a menagerie of uncommon animals and plants.



Guests will find handmade treats each day at Copper Confection.



During Aurora, one of the three seasonal events at Evermore, guests will be able to enjoy a Dickens-inspired fair.

Guests will quickly realize it is the largest living, breathing live stage in the world.”

So why Utah and not Orlando or California? Ken Bretschneider and his family love the state of Utah, and Ken has created several successful Utah startups such as DigiCert and The Void. Not only that, but Cornilles says the nature of Utah provides the perfect backdrop for the European-themed setting of Evermore.

Evermore’s mythology is the guiding force behind its creative process, so when guests enter the park, they’ll step into a completely different world. The characters guests will encounter in this park were created by Evermore’s story development team and creature shop, and are all specific to the storyline.

“We will have scripted roles for our actors, but we also want them to be very well-acquainted with improv so they can interact with the guests — so that it can be a different experience every time,” said TT Bretschneider. “But it will be within the same vein of a storyline that we created.”

The park will host three seasonal events and several themed parties

throughout the year. The parties will fill the gaps between the seasonal events, so there will always be something interesting happening.

The first seasonal event, Mythos, opens a dimensional portal in the town, bridging the path between our world and the realm of Mythos. Guests will join in on a classic medieval festival, seeing jugglers, acrobats and magicians performing their feats of wonderment. A lantern festival will also be held during Mythos, filled with elaborate displays and character interaction specific to the event. This event will take place in the summer to early fall.

The next seasonal event is Lore, a time where goblins and ghouls roam the town. The Town Square will be illuminated with thousands of jack-o-lanterns, and the park’s gardens will come alive with trick-or-treating and other spooky fun fit for all ages. For those looking for more frights than fun, guests who stay in the park well into the night will certainly find the dark creatures they’re looking for, all inspired by Celtic lore. This event will, naturally, run in the fall for the Halloween season.

The final seasonal event is Aurora, a winter wonderland all its own. Evermore will host a Dickens Festival in the Towne Square, as music and magic fill the air — along with the scents of delicious holiday treats. The gardens will come alive with light, characters will be out with new stories to tell, and guests might even catch a glimpse of St. Nicholas himself! This event will round out the year and run through the holiday season.

As for the themed parties in-between these seasonal events, guests can enjoy either the Ghost Pirate Adventure or the Victorian Masquerade. With Ghost Pirate Adventure, guests can explore the high seas of Evermore and set out on a night filled with daring sword fights, pirate adventure and mayhem galore. During the Victorian Masquerade, guests can enjoy the magic and mystery of Evermore’s Masquerade Ball, filled with beautiful gowns, dancing, and, of course, masks.

Each of these events and parties will be a giant working theatrical production. The cast will be well-versed in their roles and help guests play out the story of the



Guests will be able to explore the four themed botanical gardens to connect to a more mystical side of nature.

evening, set to the music, lighting and immersive sets of the park.

"We have our overarching story that carries through all three events, and the pop-up parties will be individual stories," said TT Bretschneider.

Outside of the seasonal events and parties, there is the Towne Square section of the park, as well as four themed botanical gardens.

In Towne Square, guests can explore six themed areas that serve as the gathering place for all of the park's adventures:

- **Copper Confection** - Here you'll find delicious handmade treats available each day in this classic Victorian shop.
- **Notting Glass House** - Inside this crystal clear and brick sculpture is a menagerie of living wonders, with a number of uncommon plants and animals. Guests would be wise to remain cautious here, as not everything they encounter will be friendly.

- **Emory Chapel** - Authentic antique architectures and elements gathered in Europe bring an old-world feel to this gothic chapel.
- **The Kettle Café** - Guests can dine here while taking in a view of the Towne Square. Filled with eclectic decor that brings in different elements of the park, this café will give greater insight into the world of Evermore. The café will feature locally sourced and organic produce in its offerings, along with an outdoor patio that features a view of dancing fountains.
- **Vanders Keep** - This massive barn will be made of wood timbers and be filled with antique lighting and the ancient tales of Evermore folk. This will be the central location for park and event information, and also be where events and parties can be held.
- **Conjures Cove** - This area will feature an interactive water playground and dancing fountains, bringing magic and spectacle to

guests of all ages through light spectacles set to an original score.

The botanical-themed gardens will infuse even more magic into guests' experiences, with a reverence for nature:

- The woods of **Clawthorne Hollow** will take guests beyond their reality and into a fantastical realm where magic is real. Here guests will find old ruins, elven treehouses, the home of Evermore's dragon trainer and more. This garden is deeply rooted in fantasy and lore, with plenty of secrets and magic to discover.
- The garden of **Glynshire** will be draped in wildflowers, and be the home to both a large millhouse and an old tavern. Other sights to be seen here include a koi pond at the end of a waterfall, and mysterious statuettes who watch silently over the park.
- In the lands of **Loudon's Rest**, guests can hear the whispers of the past in a forgotten graveyard. A



During the themed parties and seasonal events, guests are encouraged to explore the park in costume.

Victorian mausoleum towers over this garden, and is home to a beautiful, inspiring fountain.

- In the **Drust Highlands**, ancient celtic warriors of the past sleep under the Earth. Cernunnos, the green giant, watches over the land, and mythical creatures call the vast hillside their home.

"It's kind of a difficult thing to explain what Evermore is to people because it's such a new concept for a park," said TT Bretschneider. "This is being created by people who are actually seeking out this stuff themselves. We say, 'This is what I would want to do'. It's not just us creating something because we think 'Oh, other people would like this'. No. We want it! Because we can't find it anywhere else in the world, so we go, 'OK, let's make it ourselves.'"

Evermore Park hopes to be open by the time you are reading this, though with construction still underway in late August, the opening date may be



During Lore, guests will be able to explore an illuminated pumpkin festival, or explore the darker side of Evermore in search of dark and fearsome creatures.

pushed back. The park will be open Mondays through Sundays from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Pricing has not been set yet. There are plans to introduce an annual

pass for the park, and costumes will be encouraged for guests of all ages, but masks are not allowed. For more information, visit Evermore.com



Walt and Roy Disney look over the hometown newspaper while standing in front of the train station.



Disney got off the train at the spot where the 1913 depot now houses the Walt Disney Hometown Museum.

MARCELINE, MISSOURI:

Where the Disney Magic Began

By Jim Winnerman

"More things of importance happened to me in Marceline than have happened since, or are likely to in the future."

*Walt Disney in Marceline, Missouri,
July, 1956*

Those are the words of Walt Disney himself, spoken long after he had achieved success as a producer in the American animation industry. He was referring to the small Missouri farm community where he spent his early childhood from 1906 until 1911, between the ages of 4 and 9.

"Everything connected with Marceline was a thrill to us. The cows, pigs and chickens gave me a big thrill, and perhaps that's the reason we use so many barnyard animals in the Mickey Mouse and Silly Symphony pictures today. Who knows? You know what the psychologists say about the importance of childhood impressions."

*Walt Disney letter to the Marceline newspaper,
June, 1938*

Disney returned to Marceline in 1946 to research his plans for Disneyland, and took photos of everything he remembered. When the park opened in California in 1955, Marceline was well represented.

"There is a remarkable similarity to Marceline in his first theme park drawings," said Kaye Malins, executive director of the Walt Disney Hometown Museum in Marceline. "When placed on top of his original drawings, our lakes, parks, downtown buildings, the train station and tracks are almost a perfect overlay to his plans.

"Before he died in 1966, Walt often spoke of having a museum here," said Malins, adding that for 20-plus years the dream did not materialize. Then, in 1998 she was surprised by a call from Ted Beecher, the son of Walt's sister, Ruth Disney. "Ted told me Ruth had died, and that she had wanted Marceline to have some of her personal things," Kaye recalled.

"Soon after I arrived at Ruth's home, the family started pulling things out of the closet and from under beds and putting it all on the dining room table," Malins recalled. Eventually she was bequeathed more than 3,000 items, and knew she had the contents for a museum. Three years later when the Walt Disney Hometown Museum opened, more than 30,000 people attended.

Located in the train station where the Disney family arrived in 1906, the two-story red brick museum consists of nine large galleries devoted to the time Disney spent in Marceline, and the influence the





The path to the Dreaming Tree and Walt's barn is a few blocks outside of town.

desk Walt used, with the initials "WD" he carved into the wooden surface.

A newspaper article on exhibit recalls in Walt's own words the influence his next door neighbor "Doc" Sherwood had on his career. It recounts how the doctor encouraged Walt to draw his horse. When he was paid a quarter for his art, Disney recalled, he was "squeezing the quarter until it hurt my fingers," while he ran home to tell his mother.

According to the article, on a later visit



Whenever Walt returned to Marceline, he would spend time under what as a child he called his "dreaming tree".

to Marceline, Disney told friends that of all the awards and honors he had received, none had meant as much as that first payment for his work.

Another exhibit consists of one of only three copies of a recording Walt made when he interviewed his parents discussing their life in Marceline.

There are a myriad of other Disney attractions in Marceline. A few blocks from the museum, a well-traveled grassy path leads to where a huge cottonwood tree that Walt called his "dreaming tree" once stood, and where he would sit and draw. "When he would come back, he would always ask for time to be alone under the tree," Malins said. Further along the path is a replica of the barn that was on the Disney farm.

When the new Walt Disney Elementary School was dedicated in 1960, Disney cancelled an around-the-world trip so he could attend. Beforehand, he had his favorite animator, Bob Moore, draw 20 Disney characters that still hang throughout the school.

The Marceline post office contains numerous photos from the day the Walt Disney stamp was issued inside in 1968. Mickey Mouse arrived in a U.S. Mail truck from Burbank, California, a town which had competed for the honor of holding the festivities.

A plaque on the Uptown Theater indicates it was the location for the premiere of two Disney feature films. In 1956, Disney himself introduced "The Great Locomotive Chase," and in 1998, the premiere of "The Spirit of Mickey" featured appearances by Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck, Pluto and Goofy along with 18,000 fans.

A Disney Attraction in Marceline?

When Disney returned to Marceline in 1956 with his brother Roy and their wives, Malins' parents had just completed building their home, and it was the only one in town with air conditioning.

ITEMS ON DISPLAY

Here are just some of the items on display in the Walt Disney Hometown Museum in Marceline, Missouri:

- Personal letters between family members from the early 1900s through the late 1960s.
- Photographs of Walt and Roy during their visits to Marceline in the 1950s and 1960s.
- Mickey Mouse dolls and a phonographic record Walt had produced for his parents' 50th wedding anniversary.
- A Midget Autopia car.
- Movie footage of Walt and Roy in Marceline.
- Track panel from Walt's Carolwood Pacific Railroad which looped around his estate in Holmby Hills.

For more information, visit waltdisneymuseum.org

only one in town with air conditioning. "Everyone brought over their best pieces of furniture, and they moved our family furniture out," she recalled.

Upon entering the home, Disney turned to Malins and asked her which room he should stay in. She answered "the pink one because that is my room," and that is where he stayed.

It was the first time Malins' parents had met Walt, and it developed into a friendship that became important when Walt decided he wanted to build a small Disney theme park just outside of town, and recreate the farm where he had lived. "There will be a time when young people will not know what an acre of land is, or ever see a seed planted," Malins recalled him telling her dad.

Disney employed Malins' father to purchase two hundred acres under the name Retlaw (Walter spelled backwards) to avoid arousing suspicion and drive up land prices. Options for 500 more acres were also secured. "Our family made numerous trips to Anaheim to meet with Walt," Malins recalled. "I can't tell you how many times I would pick up the phone to hear, "Hi Kaye. This is Walt. Is your dad home?" Rough sketches of what Walt envisioned are on display at the museum.

Disney succumbed to cancer in 1966 before construction commenced. Soon afterward, Roy Disney cancelled the Marceline project so the firm could concentrate on building Walt Disney World in Orlando.

Eventually the land acquired, which included the Disney homestead, was sold. Malins' parents purchased the original 40-acre Disney property and Kaye still resides there today.

Today the small town where the Disney "magic seed" was planted is a destination for many Disney fans from around the world. A visit provides an insightful glimpse into the early life of a man who has brought happiness to billions of people.



Walt's original school desk is on display in the museum with the initials WD carved into the top.





Universal's Aventura Hotel sits between the Cabana Bay Beach Resort and the Sapphire Falls Resort.

PHOTOS BY UNIVERSAL ORLANDO



Resort **REPORT**

By Jackie Roseboom

Universal's New Aventura Hotel is Cool, Clean & Sleek

Although Universal's Aventura Hotel may look like a fidget spinner, that wasn't the intention. But Universal has lovingly embraced the fidget spinner look throughout this technologically advanced hotel, but the design was chosen to maximize the views, and once you've visited the rooftop bar and bistro, you'll agree they've succeeded.

The hotel is considered a value plus resort. It has the same affordable price point as the Cabana Bay Beach Resort

across the street, but it has a totally different feel. The minimalistic modern look helps you relax instantly. The hotel entry doesn't look anything like a value hotel, and you certainly get a lot of perks.

The sleek rooms are supplied with usual things we expect and some we do not. The amenities for the Aventura Hotel's 600 guest rooms includes an electronic tablet in every room that controls the lights and almost everything else in the rooms. You can order room service on the tablet as well control the television. You can even log into your Netflix and other online accounts and view them on the television through the tablet. When you check out (through the tablet, of course), all your log-in information is erased. Standard and deluxe, two queen and one king rooms are available. They also feature kid's suites which are 575 square feet with a special sleeping area and sofa for the kids. But don't expect any kids themes such as Minions in the rooms. The Skyline rooms are on the highest floors and provide the best views for an additional cost.

There are dining and lounge options for everyone at the top and bottom of the hotel. The cozy barVentura is across from the check-in area. Across from that is a full Starbucks, and a little further down is the Urban Pantry, which is a cornucopia of whatever you may be hungry for. They have grab and go sandwiches and snacks as well as coffees and pastries. Full break-



Bar 17 Bistro features awesome views all around, including this one into Volcano Bay water park.



PHOTOS BY UNIVERSAL ORLANDO

The beautiful swimming pool area features a bar, hot tub, splash pad, fire pit and more.

fast is served in the morning. Pizza, burgers, chicken dinners, sushi and create your own noodle bowls are available at different stations around the pantry for lunch and dinner. Of course, they also have all kinds of delicious desserts including ice cream and Italian ice.

The relaxing pool and splash zone are just outside from the Urban Pantry. Next to the inviting pool, there's a pool bar called BarSol, where you can sip drinks poolside or by the fire pit.

Bar 17 Bistro is the highlight of the hotel. It's a rooftop bar offering panoramic views of the theme parks, other resorts, Volcano Bay water park and the beautiful Orlando skyline. Guests can enjoy delicious snacks, appetizers, cocktails, beer and wine with a view. It opens every day at 4 p.m. and has an express elevator directly to it. If you'd like some time away from the kids, there are Children's Activity Centers in three of the other Universal hotels you can take your 4- to 14-year-old kids to for a price.

As expected, there's a complimentary fitness center and free Wi-Fi throughout the hotel. They've also gone high-tech with their HoloCube game room on the second floor. You won't find any arcade machines here, just a few hanging Virtual Reality headsets. It's about \$10 for five minutes of play with a few games to choose among. It's a fun novelty if you've never tried VR. Universal passholders get a discount.



The higher the rooms are, the better the views. The rooms are modern, sleek and high-tech.



PHOTO BY UNIVERSAL ORLANDO

The Urban Pantry food court serves every meal, with different stations offering different options.

As for the park benefits of staying at Aventura, as a hotel guest, you get to enjoy The Wizarding World of Harry Potter and Volcano Bay one hour before the parks open (valid theme park admission required). You can walk to the parks, including Volcano Bay, or take the free buses to CityWalk. If you'd rather take a boat, you can walk next door to the Sapphire Falls Resort and board there. You can also activate charging privileges

with your room key card that you can use throughout the Universal resort, and you can have purchases sent back to your hotel. You can also visit select CityWalk nightclubs for the length of stay with no cover charges. You may want to start your day with a wake-up call from one of your favorite Universal Orlando characters.

The sleek new Universal's Aventura Hotel is a fun new addition to the Loews family hotels on Universal property. But

this isn't the last. Universal's Endless Summer Resort opens next year and we expect more to open beyond that.



PHOTO BY UNIVERSAL ORLANDO



The open-air Bar 17 Bistro is so named because it's on the top of the hotel on floor 17.

UNIVERSAL'S AVENTURA HOTEL

Location: 6725 Adventure Way at Universal Orlando Resort

Prices: Standard rooms run from \$116 to \$269 per night.

Parking: \$14 per night. If you'd like to visit without staying at the hotel, parking is validated for three hours if you spend \$25 at the bars and restaurants.

Phone: (407) 503-6000

Website: UniversalOrlando.com



PHOTO BY VENESS TRAVEL MEDIA

The two-story Wine Bar George offers high style in the heart of Disney Springs, as well as a new take on wine presentation.

Table **SERVICE**

By Susan & Simon Veness

By George! It's a Disney Springs Delight!

PHOTO BY WINE BAR GEORGE



George Miliotes, left, with his executive chef and long-time friend, Ron Rupert.



Back in 1995, a radical new restaurant opened in Walt Disney World that changed the way the resort approached its food and beverage service. George Miliotes was part of the opening team of the California Grill at Disney's Contemporary Resort, and now he is back with another concept that, while it's probably not as groundbreaking as the Grill, definitely moves the needle of smart, modern restaurant appeal. Welcome to Wine Bar George in Disney Springs.

This eye-catching venue has been several years in the making, but definitely links back to the launch of the California Grill, when conventional thinking said

that a cutting-edge restaurant was the last thing theme park guests had on their minds. Disney's creative culinary team pretty much blew that idea out of the water with the success of their concept, and the spread of fine dining throughout Walt's World (and into other parts of Orlando) was underway.

Meanwhile, Miliotes had come to the attention of the Orlando-based Darden restaurant group and, in 2002, he was spirited away to lend his expertise – which included a growing profile in wine culture – to a new start-up brand, Seasons 52, as well as The Capital Grille and Eddie V's chains. In 2007, he became one of the



In addition to around 140 different wines, Wine Bar George features a genuinely tempting menu, including an array of small-plate appetizers, charcuterie boards and family platters that have great eye-appeal as well as superb flavor.

PHOTO BY WINE BAR GEORGE



The interior is designed to be especially welcoming, with a warm, friendly tone that appeals to wine aficionados and casual drinkers alike — hence the clear message as you enter the main bar, left.



world's handful of Master Sommeliers and started to dream about creating another culinary prototype. It finally became a reality this year, with the two-story venue at the heart of The Landing area, opening in high style with a vibrantly fresh take on the wine bar scene.

Yes, it's a bar, and yes, there's a lot of wine on offer. Make that a LOT of wine — around 140 choices by the ounce, glass or bottle, including several varietals sourced directly by George himself and available in the U.S. for the first time.

But just because there is "Bar" in the name, don't go thinking this is just a glori-

fied drinking den. That couldn't be further from reality. If anything, this is the chance for a memorable — and creative — meal, accompanied by great wine, beer or signature cocktails.

"The California Grill will always have a special place in my heart as we created something special there, and then I was able to go to Darden with Chef Ron Rupert, who was the number two chef at the Grill," George told us. "He was the first person we brought on at Seasons 52, and he knows my thinking, of my desires for food, how I build a wine program and how I want a restaurant to run. So having him here as well has been the best thing about what we've done."

"I don't need to worry about the food coming out of the kitchen for a moment. If you look at the menu, it's not huge. There are twenty-ish items, but they all come out

quickly and efficiently, they are all beautiful and tasty in their own right, and they are all wine-friendly, which is really what we wanted."

Tasty would definitely be the word. Of the 10 small-plate tapas-style appetizers, the Crispy Mac & Cheese Bites and the House-Made Meatballs are both must-try palate pleasers. The former is as crisp and luscious as you'd expect from the description (in a tomato reduction and with a pecorino dusting) and the latter a deeply satisfying mouthful of concentrated, smoky goodness.

There are three superbly presented cheese and charcuterie boards, and then a choice of three classic Family Style Plates — Skirt Steak, Wine-Braised Chicken, and Whole Greek Sea Bass — which are easily enough for two, but could stretch to three or four if you don't have an overly-large appetite.

Our can't-miss recommendation goes to the Argentinean-style steak, a truly

scrumptious platter piled high with thinly-cut meat, herb-roasted potato wedges and a fresh, seasonal vegetable, in this case, a generous helping of asparagus that was almost a meal on its own.

It's quite likely you won't be able to eat another bite after an appetizer and family plate, but it would be a major oversight to miss out on dessert, as the Olive Oil Cake, with candied olives and lemon mascarpone, is a taste sensation in its own right.

But what about the wines themselves? "They run the gamut from \$8 glasses to some that are \$80 for an ounce, and everything in between," George explained. "There are things that are familiar and things that aren't familiar. But the premise is there's something for everybody."

"The list does take something of my personality. I love Rieslings, so you'll find Rieslings from the dessert sweet to the bone dry. I've traveled the world trying to find what I think are the finest examples of each thing, and we have some of the greatest wines available by the ounce, which has people very, very interested."

"We have six wines that we love available by the tap, and we have the most sophisticated vacuum system available to ensure all the bottles we serve from stay fresh, so we can serve an ounce of anything in stock."

We sampled one of George's tap selections, a beautifully light and crisp Provençal Rosé, and were impressed by the freshness and lingering red-berry flavors, ideal for a Florida summer. He then presented two of his red-wine favorites, a delectable Chilean Carménère (Casas Del Bosque) with big, jammy notes and a spicy finish, and one of "George's finds," a Triton Tempranillo from Spain that he rates "the greatest value for price for red wine today."

Spain features prominently among the many choices, as George believes it is something of an under-utilized region, offering outstanding value for some big, flavorful vintages.

Also of note is their own cold brew coffee (you can't miss it percolating on the front of the bar), which goes into their mind-bendingly delicious Wake Up Call cocktail, an espresso-infused concoction of Barsol Pisco from Peru and



If there's one thing you shouldn't miss at Wine Bar George, it's dessert, with Key Lime Pie among the delicious options.



PHOTOS BY VENESS TRAVEL MEDIA

Even the very best wines can be offered by the glass, thanks to George's special gadgets like the high-tech Coravin system.

Caffe Borghetti Espresso Liqueur from Italy – heaven in a glass.

Mention should also be made of the wonderfully clever The Basket, George's take on a quick-service offering, to one side of the outside of the restaurant. Offering Sandwiches, Bites & Boxes and the on-tap wines, as well as beer, cider and non-alcoholic beverages, it also features beautifully present picnic baskets for two or four. Yogi Bear would definitely approve, but you don't need to be smarter than the average bear to enjoy them!

WINE BAR GEORGE

Location: Disney Springs, The Landing

On Disney Dining Plan: Yes

Disney World Annual Passholder Discount:
Lunch only

Price Range:

Appetizers: \$8 to \$18

Entrees: \$25 to \$72 (serving 2 to 4)

Wine: Starting at \$8 per glass

Desserts: \$7

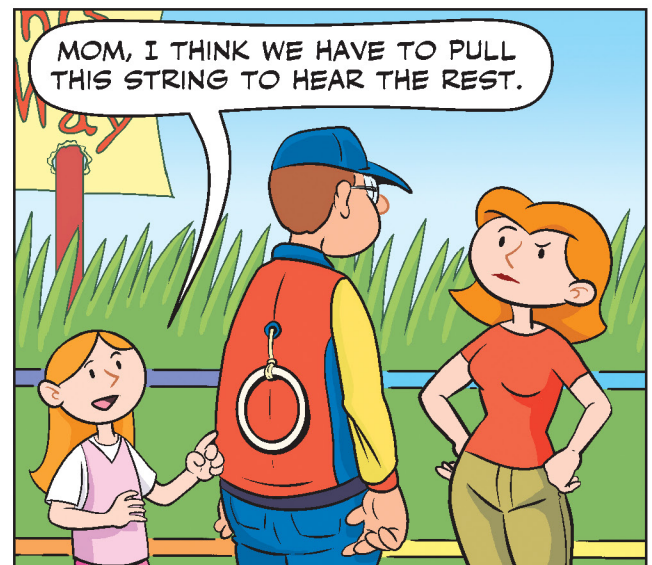
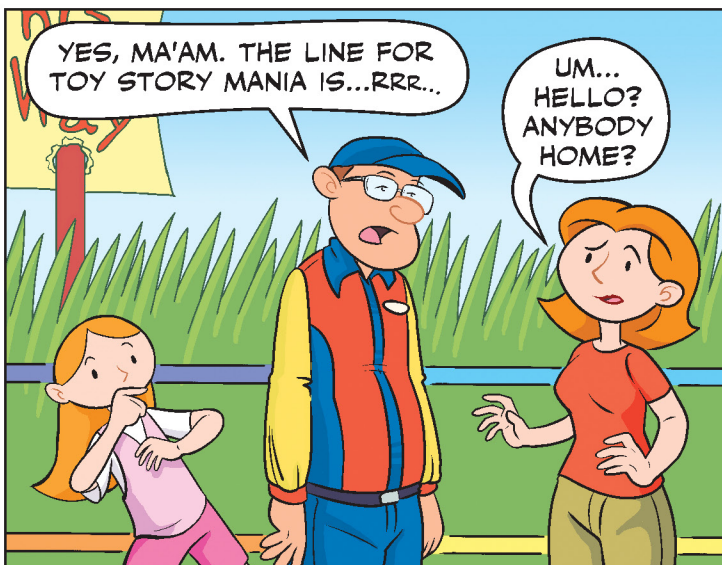
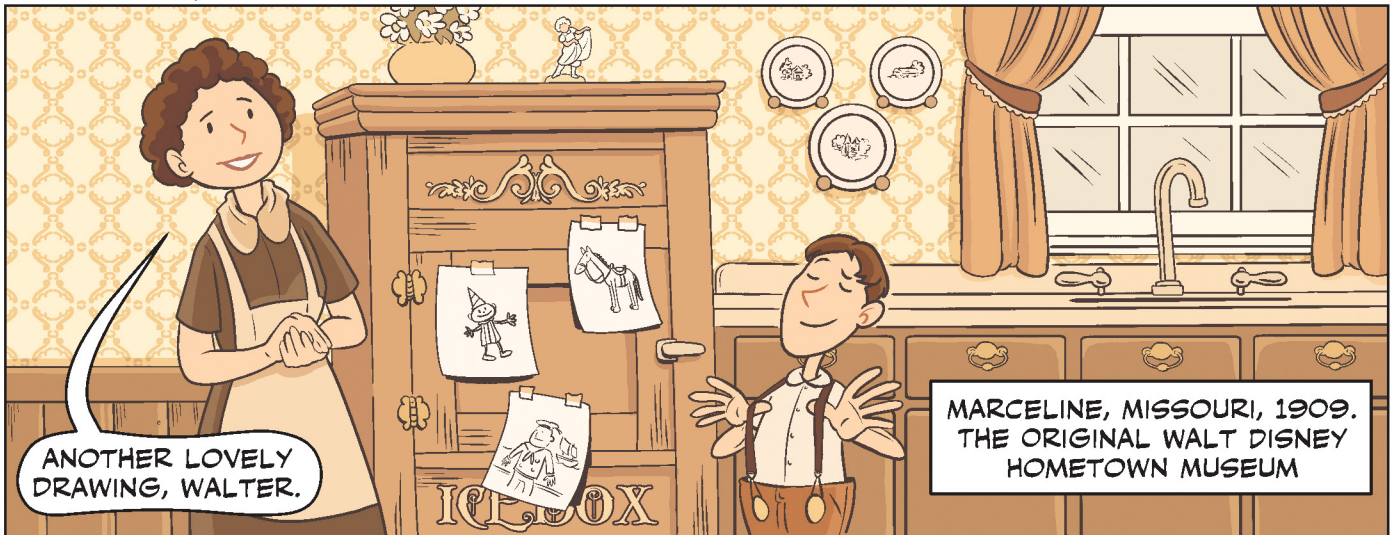
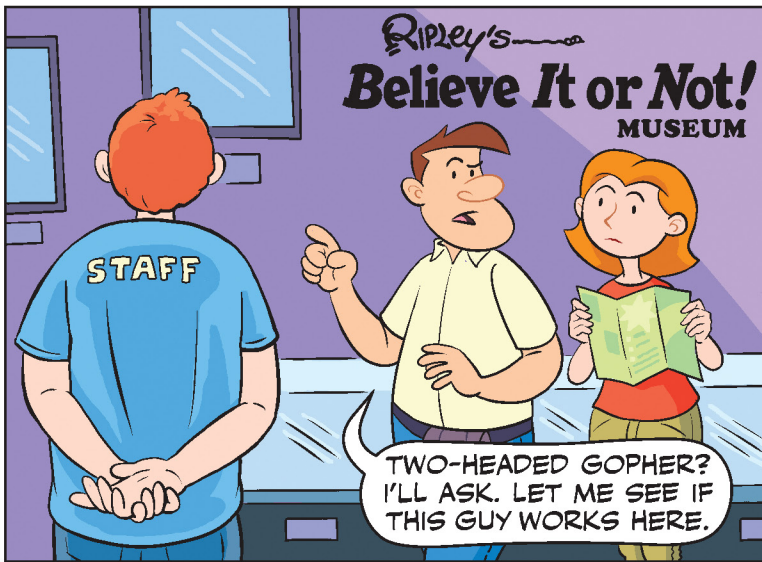
Contact: 407-490-1800

Online: winebargeorge.com



AMUSEMENT PARK

By Vince Dorse, Created by Pat N. Lewis & John Green





SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the 10 differences in these two photos?

Our reporter Quinn Roseboom with Goofy at the media event for Mickey's Not So Scary Halloween Party in Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World. Look for his report on "The Attractions Show" on YouTube, Facebook and AttractionsMagazine.com.

BEFORE



PHOTO BY BANKS LEE

AFTER



1. Another pumpkin has been added to Quinn's pumpkin lei (below his right shoulder).
2. Quinn is wearing a gold hoop earring.
3. Goofy's pupils are larger.
4. One of the pumpkin pins is gone from Goofy's vest.
5. Goofy has one less whisker on his right cheek.
6. Mickey's face is no longer on Quinn's badge (center bottom of photo).
7. Goofy's scarf has changed from green to blue.
8. A duplicate black mark on Goofy's glove.
9. The tourist behind Quinn (left side) is gone.
10. There are now four



THE RUMOR QUEUE

By Fowl Owlerson

We're approaching my favorite holiday of the year, Halloween, which means haunt season is going into full swing. It's time to put out the Halloween decorations, go to haunt events, and watch scary movies. Without further ado, let's dive into the latest rumors.



Universal Orlando

It would seem a rumored title has emerged for Universal's proposed third theme park and it's "Fantastic Worlds." DreamWorks is said to be a prominent part of the concept, with lands dedicated to Kung Fu Panda and How to Train Your Dragon. The main conceptualized land for Super Nintendo World is rumored to be in this new park as well, with space set aside for future expansions that will feature additional Nintendo characters and worlds. Jurassic World is rumored to be another land in the concept for the park. A Hello Kitty, Sanrio-themed land is rumored either as a land for Fantastic Worlds or a redo of Universal Studios Florida's KidZone.

Walt Disney World

Rumors have emerged that a new Brazil pavilion may be added to the World Showcase at Epcot, possibly involving the iconic trio from "The Three Caballeros." This is assuming a "Coco" overlay happens over in the Mexico pavilion. The United Kingdom pavilion is rumored to be getting a new dark ride, although the specifics are not known. A new version of Spaceship Earth is said to be in the works, although rumors suggest it'll take some time before the changes materialize.

Once Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge opens, Hollywood Studios' next project is rumored to be an overhaul of the Animation Courtyard, with a possible themed area based on a Pixar film. A rumored Indiana Jones attraction could be placed in Hollywood Studios or Animal Kingdom.

A replacement for the Magic Kingdom's Stitch's Great Escape is rumored to be in the works. Wreck-It Ralph was the suspected replacement, and this could very well be the case, as production is ramping down on the sec-

ond film and the team could theoretically transition into rendering footage for the attraction. For the Magic Kingdom's 50th anniversary in 2021, a new nighttime parade is rumored to be in the works, as well as a replacement or update for Illuminations at Epcot.

Busch Gardens Tampa

Tanganyika Tidal Wave closed at Busch Gardens Tampa last year. Rumors indicate this will be the site of a new roller coaster to open next year. Its rumored code name is "Project Teel." It's rumored the ride will be themed after a tiger, much in the same way Cheetah Hunt is themed after a cheetah and SheiKra after a hawk.

DISCLAIMER

The thoughts expressed here are not purported as fact and should be viewed as hearsay until officially confirmed or denied by the companies mentioned.

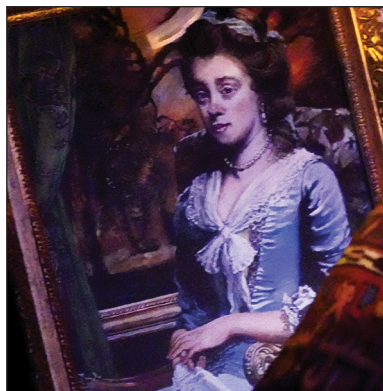
Have a rumor, comment, or question? Send them our way at info@attractionsmagazine.com. You can also strike up a conversation with yours truly on Twitter @fowlowlerson.



MYSTERY PHOTO

WIN AN ATTRACTIONS MYSTERY MERCH BOX!

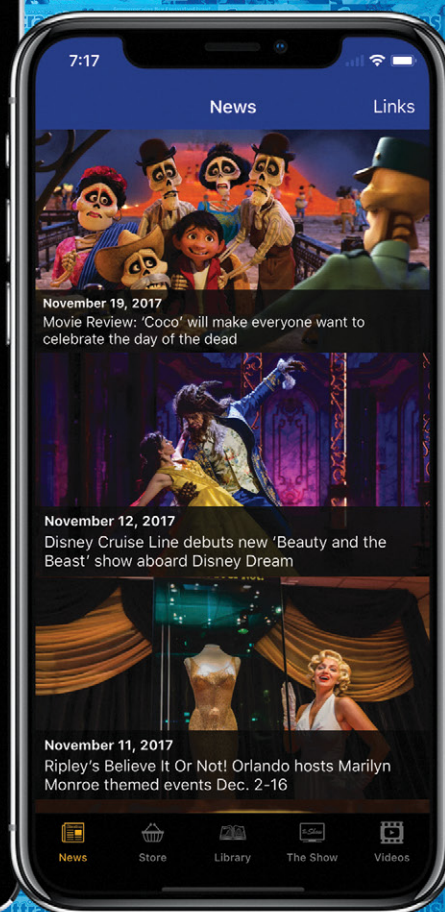
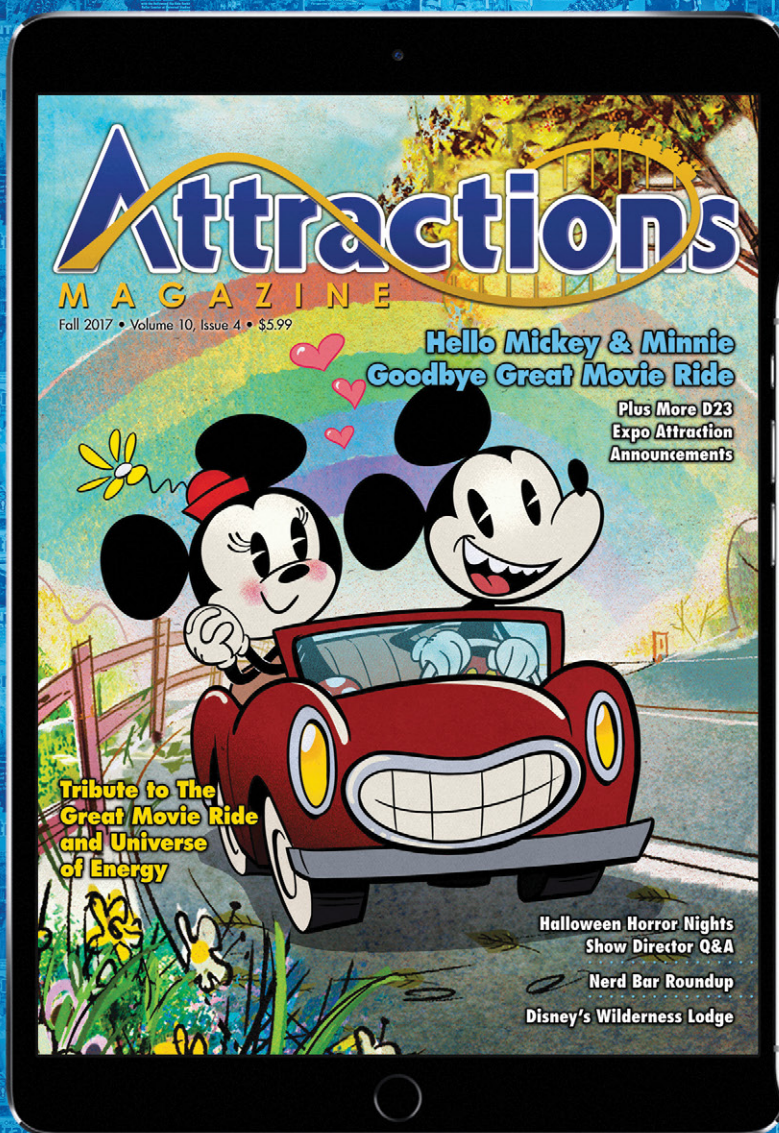
Tell us where you can see this painting. Hint: You can see it from a ride at Walt Disney World and Disneyland Park. To enter, e-mail your answer, along with your name and mailing address to mystery@attractionsmagazine.com.



LAST ISSUE'S MYSTERY PHOTO ANSWER

Congratulations to Barbara Gendaszek from Gloucester City, New Jersey. She recognized the building as the now closed Emeril's Orlando at Universal CityWalk. Universal hasn't announced what will be going into this location.

Also available on your smart device.



Enjoy all of the latest Attractions News, Videos and Shows free in our app!
Subscribe digitally or purchase full issues of Attractions Magazine on iPad and iPhone.



Download on the
App Store

nook
by Barnes & Noble
kindle

Digital subscriptions and issues are also available on all
Android devices through the Nook and Kindle apps.





IN THE LOOP

A New Innovation in Roller Coaster Track

By Andy Guinundo

If you are a long-time reader of this magazine, you may have turned to this page expecting to see my “Out of the Loop” column that resided here, dating all the way back to our premier issue in 2007. As our magazine has evolved to contain more widespread coverage of attractions across the world, there is less of a need to have a dedicated column for this coverage. Enter “In the Loop”. This column will provide roller coaster-specific coverage down to the

nitty, gritty, nerdy details! It will discuss hot new coasters, classic coasters, coaster construction, design and whatever other fun coaster things we can dream up!

In this first column, we’ll discuss two new coasters. Six Flags Fiesta Texas’ Wonder Woman Golden Lasso Coaster and California’s Great America’s RailBlazer. These are the first two installations of new track technology by Idaho-based Rocky Mountain Construction (RMC). “Raptor” track, as it is called, consists of a single rail on which the train rides, unlike traditional wooden or steel coaster tracks that consist of a pair of rails, much like a traditional train track. Raptor track trains include eight inline cars only a single rider wide.

While Wonder Woman Golden Lasso in San Antonio wins bragging rights as the first Raptor track coaster, it only beat RailBlazer’s debut by about 30 days. It would not be



Wonder Woman Golden Lasso is the first Raptor track coaster in the world.



RailBlazer is themed as a “California Highway 1” off-road adventure.

incorrect to think of these coasters as twins in that track layouts are a mirror image of each other, with only minor differences in the specs.

From a theming standpoint, Wonder Woman Golden Lasso is taken from the DC Comics superhero. The red and yellow track paint scheme along with red, blue and starred trains, reflect this theme. RailBlazer is themed to California State Route 1 and resembles a California off-road adventure, although the ride is much smoother than any off-road wheeled adventure would be! It has orange track with beige supports and several different solid-colored trains.

Each of these coasters tops out at over 100 feet with a hundred foot drop at a maximum angle of 90 degrees in the initial drop. Wonder Woman is a few feet taller at 113 feet. RailBlazer maxes out at 106 feet. They each utilize a chain lift. During the initial drop, the coasters hit their maximum speed of approximately 52 mph. The coasters invert three times and have common ride elements including a dive loop, cutback, corkscrew and over-banked curve leading to a final brake run. While elements such as these exist in other coasters, the lower center of



RailBlazer reaches a maximum vertical angle of 90 degrees.

gravity, single rider wide, and inline nature of the trains promise a new and different coaster ride experience.

The coasters were both announced in August 2017 and debuted this spring. Wonder Woman Golden Lasso Coaster represents RMC's 8th coaster installation at a Six Flags Park with Twisted Cyclone at Six Flags Over Georgia being the 9th, having opened a few weeks after Wonder Woman. This is the first year that RMC coasters have opened in Cedar Fair Parks, California's Great America's parent company. Others to open this year include Twisted Timbers at Kings Dominion and the epic Steel Vengeance at Cedar Point in Ohio.

Featured Manufacturer

Rocky Mountain Construction is a manufacturing and construction company based in Hayden, Idaho. The company was founded in 2001 by Fred Grubb and Suanne Dedmon. Several years later, engineer and roller coaster designer Alan Schilke joined the team. Schilke comes by way of leg-



Fred Grubb, left, with "In The Loop" columnist Andy Guinigundo.

endary coaster designing and manufacturing company, Arrow Dynamics.

It was Grubb and Schilke who collaborated on I-Box track technology. The track that visually resembles a construction I-beam can be twisted and turned any direction desired. It has been used to re-track old wooden coasters. The new steel track is placed on top of the old wooden skeleton structure creating a wood-steel hybrid coaster very different than the original. The first of these refurbishments opened in 2011 when Texas Giant became New Texas Giant at Six Flags Over Texas. Three such coasters opened this year.

Topper track is another RMC innovation. Traditional wooden coaster track consists of thin metal rails atop a layered wooden base. Topper track has several inches-thick paired metal rails atop a layered wooden base. This design allows for aggressive inversion elements such as heartline rolls and zero-g stalls, as well as over banking turns that are difficult, if not impossible, with traditional wooden track. At the same time, the ride is silky smooth, unlike that of a traditional wooden coaster. The first installation of Topper Track was Outlaw Run in Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri in 2013. Their most recent track innovation is the aforementioned Raptor track.

Coaster Lingo Cutback

A cutback is a roller coaster ride element similar to a corkscrew. A corkscrew is named as such because it resembles the tool used to pull corks from wine bottles. In this inversion, riders remain facing forward, moving in one direction. In a cutback, halfway through a corkscrew maneuver, the direction changes, or "cuts back", such that the train is heading back in the same direction it started as it finishes the maneuver. Currently operating coasters that contain this element include Star Wars Hyperspace Mountain in Disneyland Paris, Skyrocket at Kennywood, along with Wonder Woman Golden Lasso and RailBlazer.

Coming Soon

As the year winds down for seasonal parks, announcement season ramps up. The first of the big coaster announcements is Canada's Wonderland's Yukon Striker. This Bolliger and Mabillard-designed dive coaster will be a record breaker. It is to be the fastest dive coaster at 80 mph. It will be the longest dive coaster at 3,625 feet long. Finally, it will be the tallest dive coaster at 245 feet tall. These records are all currently held by Valravn at Cedar Point, which opened in 2016.



Yukon Striker will be the longest, tallest and fastest dive coaster in the world.

PHOTO BY CANADA'S WONDERLAND



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ATTRACTION!



When we saw this photo from the “Wreck-It Ralph 2” movie trailer, right, it reminded us of this photo, above, we took during a Disney cosplayer meet-up a few years ago at the Megacon convention in Orlando. The cosplayers were posing for photos when they were told to make funny faces.



GIVE KIDS THE WORLD **CHALLENGE** *for Hope*

Walk, Run, Roll or Stroll



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2018 • 7 to 9 A.M.

Give Kids The World Village • 210 S. Bass Road, Kissimmee, Florida 34746

Give Kids The World's Challenge for Hope invites you inside our magical Village to experience the wonder, happiness and hope that happens here every day! On this enchanted 5K, participants run, walk, roll or stroll through the Village. We open our gates so participants can be part of the same fun, laughter, and joy visiting families experience during their weeklong stay at the Village. Help make dreams come true for critically ill children and their families.

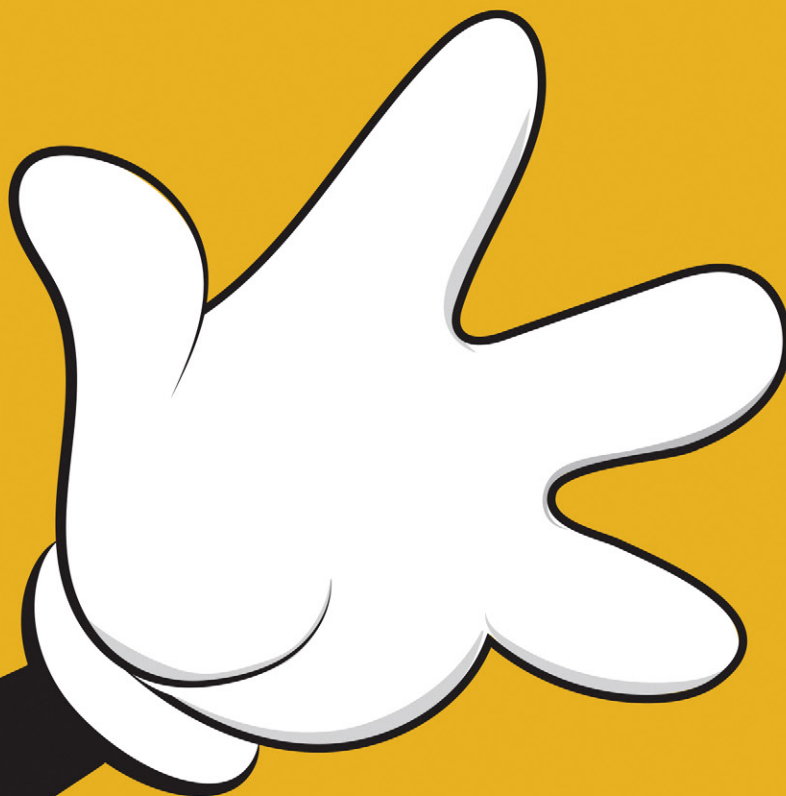
challengeforhope.org



Give Kids The World Village is an 84-acre, nonprofit "storybook" resort, located near Central Florida's most beloved attractions, where children with critical illnesses and their families are treated to weeklong, cost-free vacations.

For more information about how this fundraiser will make a difference in the life of a child, please visit givekidstheworld.org.

LET US GIVE YOU A HAND AT PLANNING YOUR NEXT DISNEY VACATION.



©Disney PORT-18-62585

Start Planning Your Fee-Free Magical Vacation Today!

Visit: www.MouseFanTravel.com

Info@MEI-Travel.com 877-881-7771



CA Seller of travel #2078074

